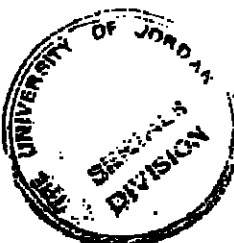


'Abu Mazen to sign accord for PLO

TUNIS (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) architect of the autonomy deal with Israel, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), will sign the agreement for the organisation at a ceremony Monday in Washington, it was announced here Friday. "If Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, refuses to go to Washington to sign the accord," Mr. Abbas will go in his place, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Information Department said. Mr. Kaddoumi, who is considered the PLO's foreign minister, is opposed to the agreement which calls for autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho and has said he would not sign the deal. A co-founder with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat of the PLO's main group Fatah, Mr. Kaddoumi said this week he believed the autonomy and recognition accords "harm the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO Charter. 'No body of leaders is empowered to force the Palestinian people to renounce their struggle for their national goals, namely the liberation of their land, the right to return and the establishment of an independent state,'" Mr. Abbas is in charge of the PLO's Department of Arab and International Affairs.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية، الرقي



Iraqi camera ban stops U.N. trip

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The chief of the U.N. commission overseeing Iraq's disarmament said Friday he would not travel to Baghdad until surveillance cameras at missile test sites had been activated. U.N. weapons experts installed the cameras at two missile test sites near Baghdad in July, but have never been turned on because of Iraq's objections. They had been designed to help ensure Iraq complied with a U.N. ban on long-range missile firings. "I can't go there if we don't get the activation of the cameras," Rolf Ekeus said in a press conference following U.N.-Iraqi discussions on long-term disarmament that began on Aug. 31. Iraqi General Amer Rasheed, who led the Iraqi delegation here, gave the United Nations "some concrete new information" on missile programmes and arms merchants, said Mr. Ekeus. Baghdad also pledged permission to activate the cameras during the technical talks at the U.N. headquarters here added Ekeus. But in exchange Baghdad is demanding guarantees the United Nations will lift an oil embargo slapped on Iraq following the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The Iraqi delegation has pushed for the embargo to be lifted simultaneously with its fulfilling U.N. demands, said the U.N. official.

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PLO, Israel formalise mutual recognition

PLO executives approve autonomy accord

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL AND the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Friday opened a new era in the Middle East by recognising each other after three decades of conflict, but many hurdles are left on the path to a full Arab-Israeli peace.

The PLO executive committee approved an agreement with Israel for self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, clearing the way for signing of the historic accord next week.

"The committee has approved the accord on self-rule despite some minor reservations," said committee member Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi.

He said the reservations concerned mainly the economic aspects of the agreement but declined to elaborate. Palestinians are worried they will not receive enough economic aid to make their fledgling government viable.

Mr. Nashashibi said U.S. President Bill Clinton had invited PLO leader Yasser Arafat to travel to Washington to sign the accord.

Mr. Arafat might go to Washington if Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin did likewise, Mr. Nashashibi said.

But earlier in the day, Mr. Rabin told Israeli Television he had no plans to meet with Mr. Arafat when the agreement is formalised in the U.S. capital.

It thus appeared likely the agreement would be signed by lower-level officials.

Mr. Nashashibi said the Gaza-Jericho agreement was approved by the committee with a "large majority" of the 12 members in attendance but refused to give further details.

The meeting came a day after Israel and the PLO recognised each other, clearing away the biggest hurdle to the signature of the self-rule accord next week.

The accord met with determined opposition from a vocal minority of the executive committee.

One member, Abdullah Hourani, boycotted the meeting and threatened to resign if the accord were approved.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Friday signed a letter to "Chairman Arafat" that acknowledged the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

"It is a historic moment that hopefully will bring about an end to 100 years of bloodshed and misery between the Palestinian

people and Israel," Mr. Rabin said after signing the letter "Y. Rabin."

Mr. Rabin acknowledged that the course he was taking with his longtime foe was risky.

"I see this as a moment of importance with many opportunities, but not a few risks... all of this is being done with the assumption that the other side will also fulfill all its obligations," he said.

In a measure of the distrust that still bedevils relations, Mr. Rabin took out his glasses and carefully read the full-page letter from Mr. Arafat as the audience of officials, uniformed army officers and journalists waited in silence.

With a broad smile, Mr. Arafat announced in Tunis hours earlier that he had signed a document in which the PLO recognises Israel's right to exist in peace and security and renounces violence (see page 2).

Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, who brokered the dramatic Middle East breakthrough, carried the letter to Mr. Rabin on Friday.

He sat by Mr. Rabin at the ceremony along with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, architect of the autonomy plan which will

start a month after the signature.

The recognition, which will be rubber-stamped by Israel's cabinet on Sunday, and autonomy documents go before the Israeli parliament (Knesset) for ratification after signature.

Mr. Rabin is ensured of a majority of at least one in the 120 member parliament despite a coalition crisis.

Meanwhile, Israeli support for the Palestinian autonomy agreement has increased over the last week to reach 60 per cent, according to an opinion poll published Friday.

In Tunis, meanwhile, three Palestinians resigned from the PLO's Executive Committee Friday.

At the last committee meeting on Thursday, with 12 members present, Mr. Arafat had the support of eight plus a proxy vote in his favour from a member absent through illness, PLO sources said.

One of his oldest colleagues, Farouk Kaddoumi, joined the opposition during the meeting, saying no PLO institution had the right to sign away the Palestinian people's right to armed struggle to end the Israeli occupation.

The meeting gave Mr. Arafat permission to accept Israel's con-

ditions for recognition — renouncing violence and promising to amend parts of the PLO charter offensive to Israel.

Mr. Kaddoumi, in a statement after the meeting, said: "I believe, after study and deep reflection, that the texts of the draft (self-rule agreement) and of the mutual recognition (agreement) violate the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the Palestine National Charter."

With Mr. Kaddoumi gone, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) is the last of Mr. Arafat's original comrades in the main PLO group Fatah to support Mr. Arafat's diplomatic strategy.

Two of the founders — Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) and Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) — have been assassinated. The other survivors, Khalid Al Hassan and his brother Hani, have reservations about his concessions to Israel.

A source close to Mr. Kaddoumi said he would not sign the peace agreement with Israel on Monday, a mission for which he would have been the natural choice, but he would stay on as head of the PLO Political Department and member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Mr. Kaddoumi argued that the Palestine National Council, not Mr. Arafat, chose him to fill these positions, the source said. Two other members of the

committee, Taysir Khaled of the Damascus-based wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Abdul Rahim Mallouh of the Popular Front (PFLP), said Friday they were formally resigning. But Mr. Khaled and Mr. Mallouh were already known opponents and Mr. Arafat had discounted them in his calculations of the balance of power in the Executive Committee.

The other dissenters in the Executive Committee are independent member Abdullah Hourani, Ali Ishak of the Palestine Liberation Front (PFLF) and Mahmoud Ismail of the pro-Iraqi Arab Liberation Front (ALF).

The PFL and ALF are small groups with relatively few supporters in the occupied territories, where support for Mr. Arafat will be most crucial when self-rule comes into effect.

Mr. Hourani told Reuters Friday that he told Thursday's meeting he would no longer take part in committee meetings if it endorsed the self-rule agreement with Israel.

He said he read out a written statement saying: "I proclaim that I cannot accept the (self-rule) agreement and the recognition, that I am not bound by them and that I call on my colleagues to take the same position."

Jordan to adopt agenda with Israel after signing of self-rule deal — King

LONDON (Agencies) — Jordan will approve a peace agenda with Israel shortly after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sign an autonomy accord for Gaza and Jericho in Washington Monday. His Majesty King Hussein said in a British television interview aired here Friday.

Asked in the Channel 4 interview, conducted after the Israeli-PLO accord on mutual recognition, if he envisioned a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, King Hussein replied, "Perhaps, sometime."

"Certainly the process leading to resolving all the problems as they relate to Israel and Jordan, in the beginning, will be very very soon," he said.

"In fact we have an agenda. We have held off ratifying it or working on it until such time as we saw some progress on the Palestinian track," he said.

"Now that that is there, we will begin very soon and we hope the same thing will happen between Syria and Lebanon, and then we will have the comprehensive

peace we have all sought. He said an agreement on a peace agenda with Israel would be approved shortly after the signing ceremony at the White House on Monday.

"An agreement on an agenda, yes, if not Monday, then Tuesday," he said (see page 10).

King Hussein called the PLO-Israel accord reached Friday "a very important beginning. I would certainly hope it will lead to what all of us have been hoping and praying for for so many years — the establishment of a just and durable peace."

Asked if Jordan would support that element of the PLO which backs the recognition of Israel, even if that element were a minority, King Hussein said: "I will continue to support the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO."

"We will never encourage anything that will mean fracturing the Palestinians," King Hussein said.

Lopsided recognition deal weighs down Palestinian supporters and critics alike

By Lami K. Andoni

THE MUTUAL recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) opens new horizons for the long-awaited peace in the Middle East, but the terms of the mutual recognition fall far short of laying an adequate basis for a solution for the Israeli-Arab conflict that addresses Palestinian national rights and aspirations, supporters and critics of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat say.

Furthermore, the mounting Palestinian opposition, inside and outside the organisation, could turn a historic diplomatic victory for the PLO into a crucial step triggering its disintegration and a threat to Palestinian national unity, they say.

While the PLO recognised the state of Israel, the reciprocal Israeli statement totally ignored any reference to the Palestinians' national rights, including the right to self-determination.

There is also a feeling inside and outside the PLO that the organisation has paid a very dear price in return of "an incomplete recognition" and "without securing any Israeli commitment to a total withdrawal from the occupied territories, or an observance of the Fourth Geneva Convention — that in theory prevents Israel from suppressing the Palestinian population and altering the identity of the occupied territories — or even a clear halt to settlements."

Moreover, a reading of the two documents show that a commitment "to end violence" were made by one side, while again the Israeli statement did not bind the Jewish state to any such measures.

In fact the published statements do not include any commitment on the Israeli side except for its acceptance of the PLO as a representative of the Palestinian people and a party to the peace process.

Supporters of the accord argue that the mere recognition by Israel of the PLO amounts to a recognition of the Palestinian people's right as a nation. They also point out that once the PLO sits on the negotiating table Israel would not be able to cross out the Palestinian national rights from agenda.

The Israeli recognition, however, is carefully worded to avoid an acknowledgment of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The final draft, according to different PLO officials, was an improvement on the originally suggested Israeli suggestion to recognise the PLO as a "party in the peace process."

Israel's not referring to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people leaves the door open for a shift in the Israeli position once the elections for the administrative council as provided for the agreed-upon autonomy accord.

Mr. Arafat appears unperturbed by the shortcomings of the Israeli statements, partly because he believes that his supporters, specifically his mainstream Fatah group, could, dominate the council.

But he is still taking a serious risk. Even if his supporters dominated the council, it will be a body representing the Palestinians in the occupied territories excluding the diaspora, while the PLO has always represented the Palestinian people as a nation everywhere.

Mr. Arafat is expected to encounter serious obstacles in upholding most of the commitments made in the statement if there were no similar reciproc-

al measures, particularly concerning Israeli violence, carried out in the near future.

Some Palestinian sources say that there have been verbal guarantees and commitments that Israel will ease its pressure on the Palestinians in the occupied territories and agree to Palestinian demands regarding the state of human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There are already reports from the occupied territories that Israel will release a big number of prisoners. The same sources said that in the next two months Israel will take other "confidence-building measures" without necessarily announcing a prior commitment.

But the fact remains that Mr. Arafat has agreed to make such commitments that involve an implicit call to end the intifada and curb Palestinian resistance — two points that have raised fears even among his supporters.

Some interpretations. But it is doubtless the closest the PLO could give in response to the Israeli demand to end the uprising.

The use of the word "terrorism," which was repeated twice in the statement and the letter, is also a source of contention among the Palestinians since it is viewed an admission that Palestinian resistance acts could be described as "terrorist," while there was no similar renunciation or condemnation of Israeli practices against the Palestinians.

By guaranteeing to discipline PLO personnel and members who violate the agreement, Mr. Arafat sends a message to the opposition within the PLO. Yet at the same time he is admitting that he cannot be expected to stop acts of resistance by Palestinians who are reacting to the Israeli occupation.

This particular commitment, which leaves some freedom — for realistic reasons — to resist the occupation could spark a showdown with the PLO groups, especially that it confirms fears that the Israelis expect the organisation to achieve what they have failed to do — to halt all forms of Palestinian resistance.

The sharp imbalances reflected in the two recognition statements have sparked serious divisions within the PLO, prompting one of Mr. Arafat's life-long comrades to publicly reject both the terms of Palestinian recognition of Israel and the accord on a limited Palestinian autonomy, which is scheduled to be signed in Washington next Monday.

In a press statement, Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Foreign Affairs Department and one of the co-founders of the mainstream Fatah movement, charged that the terms

(Continued on page 10)

West Bankers hail accord; hardliners vow to wreck it

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank welcomed Israel's recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Friday as a historic achievement, but Islamic militants in Gaza clashed with Israeli forces during protests against the accord.

Hardline Palestinian fighters in exile threatened Friday to assassinate Yasser Arafat and other dissidents, vowed to fight with all

their might to wreck his pact with Israel.

"Abu Ammar (Arafat) has committed treason and because of our national responsibility we announce our intention to shed the blood of the traitorous Arafat for Palestine, its martyrs, its intifada and all the agonies of its people," said a statement in Beirut from the Fatah Uprising led by Abu Musa.

Soldiers shot and wounded three protesters in demonstrations in Gaza Strip.

Settlers vow to scuttle Palestinian autonomy

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Jewish settlers, horrified at Israel's recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), have vowed to fight Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

Hundreds of settler demonstrators and their supporters from throughout Israel set up a din of metal pounding on metal, whistles and shouts the moment Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet announced the historic recogni-

tion on Thursday. The steady drumming of noise from their position opposite Mr. Rabin's office could be heard a half kilometre away at parliament. It continued unabated for more than four hours.

"They'd like to beat Rabin but it's impossible to beat Rabin so we're letting off steam this way... they're giving away our home," said Moshe, 18, from a settlement near the city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank.

Clinton restores formal contacts with PLO

Combined agency dispatches

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON Friday restored American diplomatic contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the prelude to the signing of a breakthrough peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians at the White House on Monday.

"Today marks a shining moment of hope for people in the Middle East and indeed the entire world," Mr. Clinton said. He pledged the United States would remain a "full and active partner" in attempts to bring peace to Israel and all its Arab neighbours.

The White House was arranging an elaborate ceremony to seal the accord between Israel and the PLO.

Mr. Clinton said Israel and the PLO would decide who would attend the White House signing ceremony for the two sides. He did not directly answer when asked whether PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would be there, although he is not expected to attend.

Mr. Clinton's nationally televised Rose Garden appearance underscored the dramatic change in the Middle East, a region long scarred by Arab-Israeli hostilities.

"I have decided to resume the dialogue and the contacts between the United States and the PLO," Mr. Clinton said.

He described the agreement as "an historic and honourable compromise between two peoples who have been locked in a bloody struggle for almost a century." The announcement came after Israel and the PLO announced an historic agreement to recognise each other.

"These PLO commitments justify a resumption of dialogue," Mr. Clinton said.

The last contact between PLO and the U.S. was in December 1988 when President Ronald Reagan opened diplomatic dialogue with them but it was suspended by his successor George Bush in June 1990 after a faction of the organisation staged an abortive raid on an Israeli beach.

"This is a moment where we are looking forward with hope, rather than backward in anger and hostility," PLO spokesman Hanan Ashrawi said here Friday.

U.S. to help implement agreement, page 2

Regent: Time to contemplate if approach is comprehensive

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday reserved direct comment on the agreement on mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), saying it was a time for contemplation of the situation.

"I have nothing to say at this moment," the Regent told a Jordan Television correspondent. "But I believe that responsibilities dictate that we wait and ponder before tackling subjects contemporaneously... and concentrate on the comprehensive-ness of the solution lest we fall in enemy traps."

"Regardless of what the international press has to say about the beginning of a delicate phase in the quest for a peace that is based on international legitimacy, we should contemplate the delicate and dangerous phase in the life of our nation... as members of one family," the Regent said.

"When we talk about our nation and unity, we are basically referring to the role undertaken by His Majesty King Hussein in emphasising the meanings of the Arab and Islamic identities in Jerusalem and holy places," he said.

Information Minister Ma'an

Abu Nowar said Jordan had not received any details of the Israeli-PLO agreement on mutual recognition.

"Until now, we have not any official memorandum or any information that could be considered a legal document, neither from the PLO nor from the sponsors of the (Middle East) process or any other Palestinian party on the mutual recognition," Dr. Abu Nowar told Jordan Television.

"Jordan cannot comment on reports by international news agencies or radios or television," he said. "It can comment only when it receives and thoroughly studies a legal and official document."

In the meantime, public opinion in Jordan on the issue varied.

"There is nothing that can be said about this move. It speaks for itself," said former Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

While Dr. Arabiyat is considered a leading member of the moderate wing of the Islamic Action Front, the country's largest political party, other front members did not concur with his lack of open criticism.

"As a Muslim I consider this treason," said a spokesman for the party's secretary general, Ishak Farhan, who was unavailable for comment Friday.

"To give Israel the right not only to rule but to oppress Muslims in Jerusalem, to forbid them to pray, move, or exercise their religious duties and political will is unacceptable. The illegal occupation by Israel of the land of Palestine is not and will never be acceptable to any Muslim," said the spokesman.

Fahed Faneke, the outspoken columnist for Al Ra'i daily, said the PLO was "making it a habit" not to inform or consult Jordan about any of its actions.

"We in Jordan, were once again uninformed and I think it's high time we look after our own interest," said the economist, who last week said Jordan should consider closing its borders if a Palestinian buffer state subservient to Israel was created in the Jericho-Gaza area.

Dr. Faneke said that PLO Chairman "Yasser Arafat made concessions to the Israelis that are completely unnecessary." He asked how can anyone representing a people living under military occupation sign away the right of that people to defend itself by any means?

Tareq Masarweh, a pan-Arab commentator, blasted Mr. Arafat's decision to recognise Israel's existence under the prevailing circumstances.

(Continued on page 10)

World sees breakthrough

Combined agency dispatches

RUSSIA AND Britain Friday led an international chorus hailing the mutual recognition agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a major breakthrough.

Vatican Radio went further, greeting the accords as "a miracle."

Russia called it "a historic and decisive step comparable with the fall of the Berlin wall," while British Prime Minister John Major termed it "a brave deal."

"From the start Russia was certain that dialogue with the PLO was indispensable," in resolving the Middle East conflict, Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin told a press briefing.

He said the accord was "an essential and courageous step for re-establishing peace and stability" in the Middle East.

Moscow, co-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks that began in October 1991, has traditionally had special ties with the PLO.

Mr. Major, on a tour of Scotland, said of the agreement: "It

has been a long time coming, but it's a breakthrough, the most remarkable breakthrough for many years."

France hailed the agreement and pledged Europe would give political and economic support to Arab-Israeli peace.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in a statement: "The mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO which has just been announced is another extremely positive step towards the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

Germany welcomed the mutual recognition as "historically significant" and hoped it would boost peace moves with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

"The decision of the PLO to recognise Israel's right to exist and renounce all forms of violence is just as significant as Israel's decision officially to confirm the PLO's role as representatives of the Palestinian people," the government said in a statement.

Japan welcomed the mutual recognition agreement, hailing it as a step forward in the search for peace.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said in a statement his government felt the accord would help the peace process and he pledged Tokyo's continued support.

The Netherlands welcomed the accord as "an encouraging step," saying it put the peace process in a "decisive stage."

Belgium, which holds the European Community (EC) presidency, lauded the Israel-PLO accord as a step towards "a historic reconciliation between the Israeli and Palestinian people."

It said the 12 EC foreign ministers, at a weekend meeting, will discuss a "more intensive" political and economic contribution to the Mideast peace process.

In Spain, the Foreign Ministry announced that King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia would make their first official visit to Israel from Nov. 8 to 11.

In Athens, visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Heikki Haavisto and his Greek counterpart, Michalis Papakonstantinou both expressed their "satisfaction" at the accord as "a first step towards peace in the region."

U.S. will help implement Mideast accord — Clinton

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States will be "closely involved" in helping to implement the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), President Clinton promised Thursday.

Shortly after telephoning his congratulations to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Clinton told reporters: "This is a very brave and courageous thing that has been done." The president spoke to reporters in Cleveland, Ohio, just after completing the call to occupied Jerusalem from his quarters aboard Air Force One: the White House made available a transcript of his conversation with the media.



Bill Clinton

White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said Mr. Clinton was informed about the "general agreement" between the two Mideast parties in a conference call with White House officials in Washington. With Vice President Al Gore nearby, the president told Mr. Rabin, "You're probably the only person in your country who could have done this. This will make a huge difference."

According to news accounts, the "general agreement" provides for mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO — with the PLO renouncing its charter provisions calling for destruction of Israel. The parties are agreed on an interim period of self-rule for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and in the town of Jericho on the West Bank of the Jordan River.

Ms. Myers said Clinton also discussed with Mr. Rabin the potential risks involved in the new arrangements, with the president assuring the Israeli leader that "whatever we can do to minimise the risks, count me in."

Mr. Clinton said he is "extremely happy that it has finally happened. I am very, very hopeful for the future. And this is a very brave and courageous thing that has been done."

The president noted that he thought agreement had been reached now because "the circumstances were propitious," and because many leaders in the area — including Mr. Rabin and PLO Leader Yasser Arafat — "were at a point in their lives, their careers, their experiences, where for all kinds of reasons, they thought the time had come... I think most people thought they had exhausted their reasonable alternatives and they didn't want to go on in this manner anymore."

Mr. Clinton cautioned that much remains to be done to bring the agreement to fruition, adding again that the United States "is committed to doing our share."

He said he believes Congress will find funds, despite budgetary constraints, to help with the work of reconstruction in the region. "I think our people will appreciate the absolutely historic significance of this," Mr. Clinton explained. "This is a huge development in the 20th Century."

Asked if Washington had been "frozen out" of the climactic negotiations in Norway, Mr. Clinton said he had been kept aware "in the most general terms" of what was happening. He added that "we didn't know a lot of the details, nor should we have known. I think this matter was so volatile and so difficult that it may be that the only way the final agreements could have been reached on the principles was in a secret and totally unknown channel."

The secretary, he said, enabled the parties "to reach out to one another" without sniping from the sidelines. The president recalled that Washington's job was to provide the framework, with Russia, for talks between the parties, and to place on the table "a set of basic principles" governing a comprehensive settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and between Israel and the Palestinians. He said it is his understanding that 70 per cent of those basic principles were included "in the ultimate agreement that came out of the secret channel."

The U.S. task, he said, "was to keep these talks going in Washington." He praised Secretary of State Warren Christopher for twice reviving the peace process — first when Israel expelled about 400 Palestinians, and again

when Israel attacked targets in Lebanon.

"We did everything we could have," Mr. Clinton asserted, "and a lot of our work is still to be done now that the agreement has been made and is public and has to be implemented. And we're prepared to do our part."

At the State Department, spokesman Michael McCurry said that Mr. Christopher intends to use the momentum created by "this historic breakthrough to continue the hard work on some of the other tracks" of the Middle East peace process.

In bilateral talks in Washington, Israel has been meeting separately with delegations from Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The spokesman noted that "there are some indications that some of those tracks are coming together as well."

But he cautioned reporters that it was "far from clear" that a reported Israeli-Jordanian agreement would follow shortly after the PLO-Israeli accord. (Later, a U.S. official said there is a broad outline for a Jordanian-Israeli agreement, but they "may have a ways to go.")

Mr. McCurry said the United States meanwhile would examine the positions of the PLO in the agreement with Israel to see if they meet the U.S. conditions for resuming the dialogue with that group.

"Clearly, we'll be looking" at the comments of the PLO as they formalise their documents "to see if those conditions" are satisfied, Mr. McCurry said without elaborating what those conditions are.

The spokesman noted that he believed there are no legal barriers to resuming the dialogue with the PLO, which was suspended in 1990.

"Resuming a dialogue and having contacts with the PLO is a much different question than having some formal recognition," he told questioners, adding that those are complicated questions and "I don't think they are going to be addressed in the immediate future."

(One U.S. concern, an official noted, is whether the PLO has responsibility to address actions of "all elements" of the PLO — especially those that have not denounced acts of "terrorism").

The spokesman reiterated that the world community is "deeply appreciative" of Norway's efforts in helping mediate the agreement.

Monday's signing ceremony to include Baker

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A White House signing ceremony Monday for the peace agreement between Israel and the (PLO) will likely include former Secretary of State James Baker as one of the guests.

The ceremony was set for 11 a.m. (1500 GMT) on Monday on the South Lawn of the White House, an administration official said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher has always intended to invite Mr. Baker, who worked hard to set up the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks under President George Bush, another U.S. official said.

Beyond that, Washington officials offered few details of the guest list, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told CNN that his government has not yet decided who will attend.

Likely candidates are PLO officials Farouk Kaddoumi and Abu Mazen.

Mr. Baker said Thursday the fall of communism and the end of the cold war set the stage for mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

"There are a number of different reasons, not the least of which, I think is the fact that the United States and its allies defeated communism, won the cold war," Mr. Baker said in an interview with CNN television.

Among other catalysts for the Israeli-PLO accord, Mr. Baker cited the allied Gulf war victory against Iraq, which he described as a "clear contest between moderate Arabs on the one hand (...) and radical Arab states on the other."

He also mentioned the "deep-seated desire" of the Israeli people "to cease being a nation constantly at war," as well as the PLO's political and financial troubles.

Mr. Baker said that all the U.S. administrations after Richard Nixon's "can take pride in what is happening," since the Middle East peace process had always had the support of both Democrats and Republicans.

The former secretary of state praised the "political courage" of the protagonists of the Israeli-PLO agreement: "Mr. Rabin and his Foreign Minister Peres, on the Israeli side, and Mr. Arafat, Faisal Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi, on the Palestinian."

Texts of Israel-PLO recognition exchanges

THE FOLLOWING is the text of a letter from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin affirming recognition of the state of Israel:

Mr. Prime Minister,

The signing of the declaration of principles marks a new era in the history of the Middle East. In firm conviction thereof, I would like to confirm the following PLO commitments:

The PLO recognises the right of the state of Israel to exist in peace and security.

The PLO accepts United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

The PLO commits itself to the Middle East peace process, and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations.

The PLO considers that the signing of the declaration of principles constitutes a historic event inaugurating a new epoch of peaceful coexistence, free from violence and all other acts which endanger peace and stability. Accordingly, the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations and discipline violators.

In view of the promise of a new era and the signing of the declaration of principles and based on Palestinian acceptance of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestinian covenant which deny Israel's right to exist, and the provisions of the covenant which are inconsistent with the commitments of this letter are now inoperative and no longer valid. Consequently, the PLO undertakes to submit to the Palestinian National Council for formal approval the necessary changes in regard to the Palestinian covenant.

Sincerely,
Yasser Arafat
Chairman
The Palestine Liberation Organisation

Arafat letter to Holst

The following is the text of a letter from Mr. Arafat to Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, who brokered the dramatic Middle East breakthrough.

Dear Minister Holst,

I would like to confirm to you that, upon the signing of the declaration of principles, I will include the following positions in my public statements:

In light of the new era marked by the signing of the declaration of principles, the PLO encourages and calls upon the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to take part in the steps leading to the normalisation of life, rejecting violence and terrorism, contributing to peace and stability and participating actively in shaping reconstruction, economic development and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Yasser Arafat
Chairman
The Palestine Liberation Organisation

Text of Rabin's response

The following is the text of Mr. Rabin's reply:

Mr. Chairman,

In response to your letter of Sept. 9, 1993, I wish to confirm to you that, in light of the PLO commitments included in your letter, the government of Israel has decided to recognise the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and commence negotiations with the PLO within the Middle East peace process.

Yitzhak Rabin
Prime Minister of Israel

Remarks at ceremony

Here is the text of Mr. Rabin's remarks in English after he signed the letter recognising the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people:

"I have just received a letter of Chairman Arafat in the name of the leadership of the PLO in which he takes commitments to recognise Israel and its right to exist in peace and security, to solve the long conflict between the Palestinians and Israel through negotiations in a peaceful way."

"He takes commitment to end terror and violence, to renounce it. He takes upon himself to look at the articles of the Palestinian covenant inoperative and no longer valid. I see in this commitment on the part of the PLO a change, a dramatic change that opens the road towards reconciliation and peace between the Palestinians and Israel."

"It is the first agreement between Palestinians and Israel since the creation of the state of Israel. I am fully aware about the difficulties that face the Palestinians and Israel in the solution of our problems. I see in it a big step towards the achievement of these goals knowing that still it's a long way to go with obstacles on the road that we shall have to remove — and it is possible to remove them."

"I believe it starts a new era, an era in which we will do our best to achieve peace and security to Israel and at the same time to give the Palestinians the right in the context of agreement about interim period to run their affairs."

"I believe that there is a great opportunity of changing not only the relations between the Palestinians and Israel but to expand it to the solution of the conflict between Israel and other Arab countries and other Arab peoples."

"It's an historic moment that hopefully will bring about an end to 100 years of bloodshed, misery, between the Palestinians and Jews, between Palestinians and Israel."

"I would like to thank you, minister of foreign affairs of Norway, for your efforts, for your involvement in the achievement of these papers and others. I would like to thank you, Shimon (Peres), for your efforts to bring it about. As I said it's only the beginning, but a tremendous, important beginning."

Timetable for Palestinian self-rule

WASHINGTON (R) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule envisages a 10-month timetable leading up to elections for a Palestinian council.

The council will run the West Bank and Gaza Strip for an interim period of five years, during which Israel and the Palestinians will negotiate a permanent peace settlement.

As soon as the Declaration of Principles is signed, Israel and the Palestinians will start negotiating details of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

A month after the signing, the declaration officially enters into force and the timetable then unfolds as follows:

Immediately:

— Authority transferred from Israeli military government and civil administration to "authorised Palestinians" in five spheres: Education and culture, health, social welfare, direct taxation, and tourism. The Palestinians will have authority in the West Bank and Gaza but it is not clear what authority they will have in East Jerusalem.

— Palestinians start building police force. Core will be PLO fighters from outside West Bank and Gaza.

— Joint Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee formed.

— Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation committee established to work on: Water, electricity, energy, finance, transport and communications including Gaza seaport, trade, industry, labour relations, training, environmental protection, and the media, an internationally-supported economic development programme for the West Bank and Gaza and a regional economic development programme.

— Jordan and Egypt invited to join continuing committee to decide on procedures for admission of Palestinians displaced from West Bank and Gaza in 1967 (estimated at about 800,000 people including dependents) and measures to prevent "disruption and disorder."

End of month two:

— Israel and Palestinians sign agreement on Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and Jericho area and detailed arrangements for Palestinian control of the two areas.

— Israel immediately begin withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

— Five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule officially begins.

End of month six:

— Latest date for Israelis to complete withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

End of month nine:

— Latest date for elections for Palestinian council. An interim agreement reached by then will specify the council's structure and powers, including its executive and legislative authority, arrangements for transfer of authority to the council, and details of independent judicial organs.

— Palestinians from East Jerusalem will be able to vote and perhaps run in the elections.

— Israeli military forces, already withdrawn from Gaza and Jericho, will redeploy outside populated areas in rest of the West Bank by eve of the elections at the latest. Israeli forces will remain responsible for security of Israeli settlers.

— Israeli military government withdrawn and civil administration dissolved.

End of month 26:

— Latest date for talks to start on permanent settlement.

End of month 62

— Permanent settlement takes effect.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ... Les Aventures de l'Espace
18:30 ... Envoyé Spécial
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Fenetre Sur
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... It's a Wacky World
21:00 ... Perspective
21:30 ... Varieties
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... Feature Film: "Hardbreak Hotel"

PRAYER TIMES

04:53 ... Fajr
06:12 ... (Sunrise) Duha
12:33 ... Dhuhur
16:05 ... Asr
18:53 ... Maghreb
20:12 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63740
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Ternate Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Assiout Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824378
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 823654, 666222
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot weather conditions will prevail as temperatures will rise sharply and winds will be variable becoming north-easterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	18 / 36
Agaba	25 / 38
Desert	15 / 37
Jordan Valley	23 / 38

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Agaba 35.2. Humidity readings Amman 14 per cent, Agaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al Mahsirri 751672
Dr. Hanna Mansour 730197
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 631099
Dr. Mohammad Al 'Azabi 752971
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nairouh pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammed Al Hila 279773
Dr. Aswad Pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Mubashir Hijwaji 981217
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls Central Amman Telephone 010230
Repairs 625101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 775111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642262
Malhas, J. Amman 63140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 85845
Jabal Amman Maternity 661277/79
The Islamic, Abdali 661277/79
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/501
Amal Hospital 674125
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)988732
Al Hikmah Modern Hospital (09)99090
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
RU Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:30	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
09:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45	Amman (RJ)
10:15	New Delhi (RJ)
10:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:30	Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
11:15	Beirut (RJ)
11:30	Colombo (RJ)
11:30	Cairo (RJ)
12:30	New York (RJ)
15:25	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey seeks Russian help to end Iraq ban

MOSCOW (R) — Turkey and Russia will cooperate in trying to lift a U.N. embargo against Iraq for invading Kuwait in 1990, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said Thursday. Ankara lost access to cheap oil from Iraq, formerly its major supplier, after the introduction of the U.N. Security Council sanctions which forced the closure of a twin Iraqi oil pipeline to Turkey's Mediterranean Yumurtalik terminal. "President Boris Yeltsin has agreed to cooperation between Turkey and Russia to lift the anti-Iraq embargo," the U.S.-trained economist told a Moscow news conference at the end of a two-day official visit. "We will try to conclude this agreement with the help of the United States, as part of a three-way cooperation," said Ms. Ciller, who met Mr. Yeltsin, her Russian counterpart Viktor Chernomyrdin and other political leaders during her visit. Mrs. Ciller did not say in what specific way Russia and Turkey would cooperate to help lift the U.N. embargo. Russia has repeatedly vowed to stick to the sanctions, Moscow says. Iraq last month not to harbour any false hopes for when cooperation before it fully bows to the Security Council demands.

F-16 plane crashes in Egypt during training

CAIRO (R) — A U.S.-made F-16 warplane crashed in a village northeast of Cairo on Thursday during military exercises. Security sources said. The fate of the two pilots was not immediately known. The Defence Ministry refused to comment on the incident but the security sources said the warplane crashed in the village of Abu Sweir near the town of Ismailia, some 120 kilometres northeast of Cairo. Egyptian air, ground and naval forces have been engaged in live military exercises for the past 10 days.

Rushdie wounded by lack of Indian support

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Bombay-born novelist Salman Rushdie said in an interview published Friday that he is aggrieved by the lack of support from India, the first country to ban "the Satanic Verses." Interviewed in Prague by the Times of India, the writer with an Iranian death sentence over his head said, "the rupture with India is what hurts me the most. India banned my book before it even arrived in India. And my own friends hardly made any fuss about it. There has never been a campaign in India for lifting the ban, or allowing me to visit." Mr. Rushdie said one of his "dearest wishes" is to visit India. He also said there were indications that the fatwa issued against him for "blasphemy" in February 1989 may be lifted soon. "The threat against me is a matter of (Iranian) internal domestic policy rather than foreign policy," he said. "Something has got to give and it may be sooner than I thought." "I have never denied that the Satanic Verses is provocative," he added. "But provocation is not an excuse for murder, just as wearing a short skirt is not an excuse for rape."

Lebanon wins Saudi pledge of \$150m in aid

RIYADH (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri ended a visit to Saudi Arabia Thursday after talks on a Saudi contribution to a Lebanon development fund. Lebanese officials accompanying Mr. Hariri said the kingdom promised the prime minister, a longtime associate of the Saudi royal family up to \$150 million. They said \$100 million would be cash and \$50 million material help. There was no official announcement on the contribution. Arab League members promised aid to finance the rebuilding of south Lebanon after Israeli attacks in July. Mr. Hariri had already secured \$220 million from other Arab states before the Saudi visit. Lebanon has been pledged a total of \$500 million.

Djibouti rebels say troops killed hundreds

PARIS (R) — Afar rebels in the Red Sea republic of Djibouti said Thursday government soldiers had killed hundreds of civilians in a drive they described as "ethnic cleansing." In a statement issued in Paris, the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD) said troops were venting anger on civilians after suffering setbacks at the hands of Afar rebels over the past three months. "Djibouti government troops have launched a vast operation of repression against civilian populations in the north and south — (region of) Tajurah, Obock and Dikhil — executing several hundred people in cold blood," the statement said. The rebel group, opposed to the government of President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, said the killings were "cleansing of an ethnic character." No comment was immediately available from the Djiboutian embassy or the French foreign ministry. France maintains a large garrison in its former colony.

U.S. lawmakers oppose accepting Iraqi POWs

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton should stop the resettlement of Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) from the Gulf war in the United States, a group of U.S. house of representative members said Thursday. They were protesting the U.S. decision to accept about 1,000 Iraqi POWs and 2,400 family members as refugees since the end of the war in 1991. "The U.S. government is resettling former enemy soldiers who took up arms against our troops in a war at taxpayer expense. We have homeless veterans in our own streets that aren't getting this kind of preferential treatment," Rep. Don Manzullo said at a news conference. He and Rep. Cliff Stearns have introduced a resolution to end the resettlement policy that now has about 35 co-sponsors, most of them Republicans. They also asked for House hearings on the policy. The State Department says the Iraqis admitted meet the U.S. and international definitions of refugee. It said about 13,000 former Iraqi prisoners of war in Saudi Arabia were determined by International Committee of the Red Cross to have civilian status and by the United Nations to be refugees.

UAE cancels talks with Iran on islands

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said on Friday it was cancelling a visit by a senior official to Iran to resume negotiations on an island dispute after Tehran renewed its claim of the islands. The visit was to be made by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahyan next week at the invitation of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who came to the UAE in June. "It has been decided to cancel the visit because the UAE is convinced that there is no desire by the Iranian side to ensure the success of the visit," the official news agency quoted a foreign ministry authoritative source as saying.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

5:45	Larnaca (CY)
11:30	Sanaa (YV)
12:30	Muscat, Doha (GF)
14:35	Rome (AZ)
20:35	Cairo (MS)
21:45	Dubai, Damascus (EM)
21:45	Larnaca (CY)
21:45	Paris, Damascus (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.

Apple	700/400
Banana (Mukhammad)	620
Beans	150 / 90
Cabbage	660 / 550
Carrot	340/250
Cauliflower	300 / 200



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, attends Friday prayers at the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman, accompanied by His Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein and Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammad. Sheikh Mohammad Hashem Al Khalidli delivered the sermon in which he spoke of the role of the Hashemite family in preserving the Arab and Islamic identity of Jerusalem (Petra photo)

3 Jordanians killed in Bosnia

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three Jordanian citizens have been killed in Bosnia Herzegovina while fighting along with Muslim Bosnian troops "in defence of Muslim women, men and children," family sources said Friday.

Hashem Nahar Al Majali was killed two months ago and Fares Al Qeisi a month ago, they said. No information was available about the time when Mustafa Bamieh was killed.

The news about their deaths was first conveyed to the families by an anonymous caller who said he was from "the Qatari agency" and later confirmed by a relative

of Mr. Al Qeisi who is also fighting in Bosnia, a sister of Mr. Al Qeisi told the Jordan Times. She said the family tried to find out more about the "Qatari agency" through telephone calls to Qatar, but were told the agency does not exist.

The families of the deceased Friday announced the death of their sons in the Arabic press, mourning them as martyrs who died defending Islam and Muslims.

Mr. Al Qeisi's sister said her relative told the family the deceased were buried in Bosnia. She said her brother and Mr. Majali left for Bosnia in March to defend the war-ravaged country after hearing about "the massacres to which Bosnian Muslims have

been subjected."

"He couldn't tolerate what was happening and insisted to go and help defend Muslims," Mr. Al Qeisi's sister said.

She described her brother, 20, as a "religious man, but said he was not a member of any political party." She said the family tried to stop him from leaving for Bosnia and even hid his passport, "but somehow he found it and left without bidding us farewell."

A member of Mr. Majali's family said they were still trying to find out more about the circumstances of his death. The family of Mr. Bamieh could not be reached, nor were government officials available for comment Friday.

U.S. team promise to study grievances stemming from sanctions against Iraq

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A U.S. delegation reviewing the impact of the international sanctions against Iraq on Jordan's economy has promised to study the Kingdom's grievances that it is being unfairly targeted and is paying a heavy price in the enforcement of the embargo on its eastern neighbour, officials said Friday.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Thursday met with the delegation, which is headed by senior State Department official David Newton, and presented the Jordanian case.

Dr. Majali said the sanctions were costing Jordan up to \$300 million a year in terms of costly delays and difficulties faced by its private as well as public sectors.

He said Jordan was finding it difficult to get approval for exports of its products to Iraq while other countries in the region had no such problems.

Furthermore, he said, the costly delays for Aqaba-bound shipping caused by the inspections mounted by the U.S.-led international force patrolling the Red

Sea were making it very difficult not only for Jordanian importers, but also raising the freight factor.

As a result, officials explain, freight to and from Aqaba was much higher than other ports, and this is dissuading many importers from using the Jordanian port.

Dr. Majali explained to the delegation "the difficulties faced directly and indirectly by all sectors of the Jordanian economy when using Aqaba, Jordan's only sea outlet."

The prime minister was referring to the strict guidelines and inspection procedures adopted by the naval task force which intercept and check every vessel heading for and leaving Aqaba.

Informed officials said Jordan had submitted to the U.S. delegation a report summarising the economic losses of Jordan as the direct and indirect result of the sanctions against Iraq, imposed after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Reporting the meeting at the prime ministry, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the American delegation "promised to study Jordan's difficulties and ways to ease the measures imposed by the (U.N.) Security Council."

Aqaba port and Jordan's transport sector mostly catered to Iraqi imports since the early 80s, when Iraq's own ports in the Gulf were blocked at the outset of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Many Jordanian industries supplied exclusively to the Iraqi market and they have been finding it difficult to find alternate markets. Furthermore, Jordanian manufacturers of food and medicine exempt from the sanctions have to wait for months for U.N. Sanctions Committee permissions, businessmen say.

"What is adding insult to injury is the fact that other ports and routes that are handling Iraq-bound goods exempt from the sanctions appear immune from the kind of inspection in the Red Sea and the U.N. procedures," said a senior shipping official.

The official was referring to Turkish and Iranian ports which are benefiting from the shipping problems faced by Aqaba.

Iraq-bound goods handled at Aqaba have dwindled to less than 10 per cent of not only the pre-crisis levels, but also 1991 and 1992 levels as many importers have turned to Turkey's, Mediterranean ports and Iran's Gulf ports for their imports.

While Iran-bound shipping re-

mains within the focus of the enforcers of the embargo to a limited extent, there is very little inspection of ships calling at Turkish ports, shipping circles say.

The U.S. delegation, which arrived here Wednesday and is scheduled to leave Monday, was dispatched to Jordan in line with a pledge made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his talks with His Majesty King Hussein in the course of a Middle East mission in August.

One of the objectives of the visit is also to assess Jordan's adherence to the sanctions against Iraq. Such periodical assessments are necessary for the administration to provide certifications that the Kingdom is enforcing the sanctions and clear the way for releasing U.S. assistance to the Kingdom.

The State Department said last week that the delegation will review the "enforcement" of the sanctions and discuss "possible ways to ameliorate the negative economic consequences of strict enforcement."

All follow-up action will be taken in consultations with the United Nations and U.S. allies, the department said.

Finance Minister Sami Gammo attended the delegation's meeting

with the prime minister on Thursday.

In addition to the ministerial level talks and submitting the report, which officials say formed the basis of the Jordanian case, to the delegation, the government has also organised meetings between the team and Jordanian businessmen.

"The idea is to convey a clear picture of the difficulties that Jordan and Jordanians face as the direct and indirect consequences of the sanctions on our economy," said a senior source.

"All the elements and evidence are there for the delegation to see and judge for itself," added the source.

According to the source, it is premature to discuss the idea of Jordan "self-monitoring" the sanctions.

"Let us clear the first phase of the process, and that is establishing beyond any reasonable doubt that Jordan, despite its economic problems, is enforcing the sanctions," said the source. "Then we can talk about other ideas and proposals."

"At this point in time, our objective is to alleviate the economic problems that the enforcement of the sanctions pose to Jordan," added the source.

Jericho natives gather to discuss proposed Israeli-Palestinian plan

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A meeting of Jericho natives resident in Jordan failed to materialise when it was advanced from Friday to Thursday because of "miscommunication," according to organisers, but a small informal gathering was held Thursday in which participants discussed the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreement.

"The meeting was originally intended to be held on Friday, but due to technical reasons it was moved a day ahead. Miscommunication among the organisers and the invitees resulted only in a 50 per cent showing," on Thursday said Ali Musallam, a member of the executive committee at the Jericho Cooperative Society.

The meeting was called to formulate unified stand on the proposed Israeli-Palestinian self-rule plan.

Since the details of the prop-

osed plan "are yet unclear to us, mainly how and where the original natives of the occupied West Bank town of Jericho would be allowed to return upon the withdrawal of Israeli forces, we were unable to come up with an official position," he explained.

Attendees to Thursday's meeting mainly voiced their fears that Jericho will have to absorb the bulk of the 800,000 refugees who will be allowed back once the agreement is implemented.

"What about the infrastructure and the resources in Jericho? Will they be sufficient to cater to the massive numbers of returnees?" asked Ahmad Mar'i, a computer programme at the Jordan Electricity Company.

Another concern among the attendees was "who decides who goes back to Jericho and on what basis; is it those who own land or property there? What if we had some land there and my grandfather had sold it? Would we still be considered Jericho natives?"

Mr. Mar'i noted that following the war of 1948, Jericho absorbed more than one million refugees who settled in and around the town.

"Are they also considered Jericho natives and will they be allowed back there?" he asked.

Mr. Mar'i hoped that answers to these and other questions would be provided by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), "so that we would be in the picture and be able to act accordingly," he said.

According to Mr. Musallam, a preparatory committee was formed and was entrusted with the task of drafting an agenda for a meeting to be held next Friday during which a panel of seven to 14 spokespersons will be chosen.

"Within the coming few days, we will address the Amman governor in order to obtain permission to hold the meeting in a public place, since we are expecting a significant number of people to show up," he said.

Germany to grant Jordan 3.7 DM over 3 years

AMMAN (Petra) — Germany is expected to grant Jordan 3.7 million German marks in the next three years to help finance water basins management project according to a memorandum of understanding signed in Amman Thursday.

The project, to begin in 1994, will involve the assistance of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation which signed the agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture following talks between a corporation team and ministry officials.

It entails measures to protect

soil and vegetation cover as well as water resources and selected water basins.

It also provides for training of local personnel in modern means of managing water basins in different regions starting with the Karak area in the south.

The two sides will cooperate in providing guidance and advice to local farmers in modern farming and management of farmlands, protection of water basins from pollution, help in the afforestation process and assistance to the concerned authorities in creating natural pasture lands.

Experts call for promoting local materials in industry

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day conference organised by the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) to discuss prospects for the use of local primary materials in industry ended Thursday with a call for the creation of a Jordanian society dedicated to encouraging the use of local materials.

A total of 32 working papers were discussed by 50 engineers employed at Jordanian firms and institutions participated, said Mahmoud Hammad, a rapporteur for the conference preparatory committee.

He said the papers focused on a wide range of topics, the most important of which included

those that addressed the recycling of waste materials, quality control of manufactured goods, thermal insulation and alternative materials that can be used in various industries.

The conference urged Jordanian research institutions to promote and upgrade coordination among one another, called on the JEA to liaise between Jordanian industries and research centres, and encouraged local industries to opt for locally-produced materials.

Noting that industrial production can be harmful to the environment, the conference said that extra attention should be given to preventing unnecessary waste.

Wahdat refugees demonstrate against PLO-Israeli recognition

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

WAHDAT REFUGEE CAMP

Close to 2,000 Palestinian refugees staged a peaceful but vociferous demonstration against Thursday night's mutual recognition between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the state of Israel, in this 1948 refugee camp.

"Arafat, Arafat — who are you to sell our land," chanted almost 2,000 men as they left the camp's largest mosque after Friday prayers.

Marching behind a truck with green flags and loudspeakers, the marchers demanded the PLO chief's blood calling him a traitor.

"Palestine, Palestine, the land of the Mi'raj cannot be sold by traitors like Arafat," continued the chanters referring to the Mi'raj, Prophet Mohammad's ascension to heaven from Jerusalem.

Asked if they represented any political party a protester said simply, "we represent Islam."

"Let all traitors burn in hell, let Hosni Mubarak and Yasser Arafat burn in hell," shouted one of the few women participating in Friday's rally.

Most of the 220,000 Wahdat refugee camp residents are 1948 Palestinian refugees who's "right of return" has been missing from draft document pertaining to the latest agreement between the PLO and Israel.

They feel that both they and their land rights in Palestine that

they fled following 1948 war with Israel were made null and void by the PLO's recognition of the state of Israel.

Legally U.N. Resolution 194 gives the refugees the choice of the right of return or financial compensation.

Many say they would choose to return rather than get material compensation since they consider compensation a form of "high treason."

"We are against mutual recognition, we are against compensation, we want the right of return," said Mahmoud Jaber, 22, a Palestinian youth born in Wahdat.

"The state of Israel is the reason for our demise, and we want our land back, by recognising Israel's right to exist, Yasser Arafat has tried to forfeit what is legally ours, and he is guilty of high treason," said Mr. Jaber. Asked if he would take any step to punish Arafat, the youth answered, "God punishes traitors!"

Neither the mutual PLO-Israeli recognition, nor the much talked about "Gaza-Jericho first" plan have addressed the rights of the 1948 refugees, who number about 2.5 million people. More than 900,000 U.N. registered Palestine refugees reside in Jordan and 600,000 live in Lebanon and Syria. The other 1,000,000 live in refugee camps inside the occupied territories.

According to the expanded "Gaza-Jericho first" plan, the two-time refugees, or those who

fled refugee camps in the occupied territories to come to Jordan in 1967, will be able to return to the occupied territories, but not to their original homes in Israel proper.

About 300 people held a rally protesting the PLO-Israeli pact after Friday prayers in the Baqa'a refugee camp, according to Associated Press Friday.

Associated Press Friday.

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Jordan Times

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History is being made

AS EXPECTED Israel and the PLO recognised each other Friday with some trepidation but with optimism as well. Ostensibly the latest move came as a direct result of the secret meetings in Oslo and elsewhere between the two sides. In fact many other important factors and developments had collectively led to the inevitable bitter-sweet conclusion. The end of the cold war, the Gulf war itself and the Palestinian intifada were singularly the most potent international and regional developments that culminated in the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal and its integral element the mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinian side.

On the face of it the much heralded two sided quid pro quo recognition does not seem to be on equal footing. On one side we have the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people bestow permanent and irrevocable recognition to the state of Israel. On the other, there is only a recognition of a national organisation, not a country or even a government. Yet a closer look would reveal that the Israeli acceptance of the PLO is also momentous since it acknowledges for the first time the existence of a people and therefore a nation. In other words, the Israeli state and the Palestinian nation were effectively given the seal of approval by both sides. This is no minor achievement. Rather it is a far reaching step that would pave the way to a permanent and just resolution of the Palestinian conflict, the core of the Middle East crisis.

Yet the road to peace in the area is still strewn with booby traps and landmines. The opposition to the accord on both sides of the fence is formidable and can still derail the achievements generated by the Israeli-Palestinian agreements. So far there is already a cabinet crisis brewing in Israel over the forced resignation of Ariel Deri, the Israeli minister of interior and Rafael Pinhasi, the deputy religious affairs minister. Both officials are from the Shas Party and their removal from office could mean the loss of Shas's critical six votes in the Knesset when the Israeli-PLO deal is put to the vote.

The vote of confidence that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has received from the executive committees of his Fatah group and the PLO in general has not been overwhelming by any stretch of the mind. The divided Israelis and Palestinians on the peace terms arrived at recently can be major obstacle to reaching true and genuine peace between them. Still, the peace momentum generated by the Norwegian-brokered deal can be viewed as a process that might not be easily reversed. The weight of the entire international community is on the side of the compromise agreement and opposition to it cannot be expected to terminate it. A new era has dawned on the Middle East and it is part and parcel of the new international order. The onus is on Israel now to convince the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab World that it wants a compromise acceptable to all in the end. It can begin today by meeting Palestinian demands for confidence building measures, and, as Faisal Hussein put it yesterday, by changing the mentality of occupier that it has lived with for the past 25 years.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily demanded that Israel also change its national charter if the Palestinians are to change theirs in the framework of the peace formula. The Palestine National Charter calls for all of Palestine to return to Arab rule while the Zionist charter denies any right to the Palestinians in their own land, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said Israel should change its national charter, which claims all of Palestine and parts of Syria and Lebanon to be the land of Israel, if it wants to reach real peace with the Arabs. The Palestinians should demand that as long as peace is in the cards, the Israelis should show flexibility and recognise the Palestinians people's rights in their own homeland, continued the writer. He said there are certain Zionist groups which want to evict all the Palestinians from their land and therefore the Palestinians should demand that these groups cancel this demand and recognise the Palestinian people's rights. These, he said, are basic principles and basic demands and are logical facts that require logical handling in the ongoing negotiations. Jordan, for its part, has the right to demand that Israel change its maps and stop claiming that part of Jordanian territory belongs to it, said the writer.

ANOTHER COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily criticised the official information services in Jordan as being geared only on praising the officials rather than reflecting the people's concerns and interests. Fahd Al Faneek said that any observer can easily discover from the way the Ministry of Information is handling affairs that the official information services has failed to live up to expectations in matters like the Gaza-Jericho first option and has retreated from the position it won over the past four years under democracy. Indeed, the radio and television has been merely praising the work of the official while the Ministry of Information has been busy itself with the so-called press code of honour and other codes, charged the writer. The news bulletins have become tedious and lack spirit and the other programmes do not attract the listeners or the viewers who normally turn to other stations, he added. There has been a time, said the writer, when the official media in Jordan used to express the real public interest and reflect the public grievances and requests. It is regrettable, added the writer, to see the official media reverting to the pre-democracy era, dedicating its services only to the interest of the officials and the official departments.

Jordanian Perspective

A deal is a deal, but Jordan has its stakes

By Dr. Musa Keilani

IT HAS been widely accepted that Yasser Arafat has taken a gamble and staked the future of the Palestinian nation behind the much-touted Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on autonomy in the occupied territories. Indeed, the decision represented the independent Palestinian will and choice, exercised by the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, a status which it has enjoyed since the 1974 Arab summit in Rabat. As such, the PLO shoulders the responsibility for the positive and negative results of the autonomy agreement on the Palestinian cause as would materialise in due course of time.

No Arab country, including Jordan, could or should be put on the dock if, God forbid, the Israel-PLO deal goes awry and fails short of the minimum demands of the Palestinian people — their right to self-determination and territorial sovereignty.

But there are a few key elements that not only concern the Palestinians but also Jordan in a very direct way, and the thought would not just go away that these concerns could have been better addressed and a better deal reached with the Israel had His Majesty King Hussein been consulted for advice and suggestion if not for approval of Palestinian suggestions.

Recent revelations indicate that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres knew the details of the agreement at least 10 days before it was formally acknowledged as having worked out. The question, although a little belated, is: If Mr. Peres, and by extension his boss, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, could be privy to such details which have direct bearings on Jordan, was it too much of Jordan to resent the fact that it was kept in the dark throughout the secret negotiations?

Granted, there had to be an element of secrecy for the process, particularly that it concerned the Middle East, long notorious for damaging leaks and surprising disclosures. In fact, many political pundits in the Middle East and elsewhere argue forcibly that there could not have been any breakthrough in the peace process had the negotiations been limited to the State Department meeting halls in Washington.

But there could be little justifications for Jordan being kept in the dark. Even when the whole thing was dragged into the open, it took several days before the details of the accord were made available to King Hussein.

For one thing, the valued assessment of the King, a statesman and diplomat, as well as the longest-serving Arab leader, and his suggestions and advice could have only served the Palestinian position in the secret negotiations. And Jordan could have incorporated elements in the Palestinian position that directly address the Kingdom's concerns and stake in the Middle East peace process.

Now that we are presented with a *fait accompli* by the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, we have no choice but to go along with it, keeping our fingers crossed that the autonomy deal will indeed lead to the realisation of the objectives of the Palestinian struggle and produce a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Despite this posture, one cannot but raise several key questions: What lies at the end of the tunnel? Is autonomy an end in itself? Will the Gaza-Jericho option be the "first" or the "last?" Within the context of Jordan's concerns, the question has to be raised, and the Palestinians have to answer it: What does the process hold in store for Jerusalem? The Palestinians should

acknowledge and respect the fact that the Holy City cannot be anyone's monopoly, given the historic role the Hashemites have played in not only defending it but also striving to maintain its Arab and Islamic identity at a time when Israel was hell-bent on Judaizing the city?

One could think of numerous scenarios which could actually turn the "first" to the "last." Right-wing Israeli leaders have openly declared that if they regain power they would not respect and honour whatever the Labour-led government has agreed with the Palestinians. Against the uncertainties that are already plaguing the Israeli political scene, we, the Arabs, have to be guarded against all possibilities and course of events.

For one thing, if Israel can demand and secure an abolition of the provision for armed struggle against Israel in the PLO charter, what is stopping the Palestinians from demanding an incorporation of a total Israeli commitment to a negotiated settlement with the Palestinian people and recognition of their rights in the constitution/charter/covenant of the Jewish state itself? Such a move, which, it seems, could pass through the Israeli Knesset now, could go a long way in any future retraction by the Jewish state under a different government on some of the commitments included in the Israel-PLO agreement.

(By the way, I am not one of those who are perturbed by the protests and demonstrations staged by Israeli settlers and right-wingers against the deal with the PLO. I think such expressions of rejection on both sides of the divide have its positive effects, in terms of strengthening the negotiating positions of both. However, it remains to be seen how each side plays the "rejectionist" card to better advantage. Remember the 1981 episode in the Sinai when Israeli policemen water-cannoned and dragged Israeli settlers away from their strongholds while international cameras beamed it to the outside world and served the Israeli objective of "honouring" its commitment to the Camp David Agreement against "fierce internal opposition?" Those scenes, as seen from the West, aided Israel in improving its image as a "peace-loving country" surrounded by "hostile" Arab states).

Jordan, the country which shares the longest confrontation line with Israel and has found itself at the receiving end of every disaster that befell the Palestinians, cannot be denied its right to defend its national interests. Its endorsement of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians was not designed to clear the way for anyone to surrender Palestinian rights.

History will record that if the Palestinians fall short of achieving their complete rights, they could blame the independent Palestinian choice, writing or unwitting, personal or nationalistic, ambiguous or clear, destructive or constructive, exercised by their representative.

It is totally unfair that Jordan also has to pay a heavy price as a repercussion of the Palestinian decision. What we see today at the Amman stock market is only an indication of the economic stakes that Jordan has in the overall equation.

Whether anyone likes it or not, Jordan cannot watch with folded hands and await the future unfold itself. It has to move and reshape its positions in forceful terms and make it compatible with the new realities brought in by the Israel-PLO agreement. And when it does, nobody should blame it for doing so, simply because what is at stake includes the future of Jordan.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

PLO-Israeli deal leaves field open to questions

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

Gaza-Jericho first option dominated the editorials in the local newspapers in the past week. Also discussed were a host of domestic affairs and the impact of the PLO-Israeli agreement on Jordan.

Ibrahim Al Absi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that now that the PLO-Israeli agreement has become a reality, one cannot help asking questions pertaining to the Israeli withdrawal following the end of the transitional autonomy period of five years and whether the Palestinian people will be granted the right to self-determination later on.

He said that the Arab masses are still to learn from Israel and the PLO whether the Israelis will give up Arab Jerusalem and whether they will demolish or abandon their settlements planted on Arab territory.

Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, pointed out that 44 per cent of the Israelis oppose the PLO-Israeli agreement forming a serious obstacle to the implementation of the deal.

The writer said that this huge opposition has its influence on the Israeli society and could adversely affect the peace process with the Arab countries. The writer said it seems that the PLO-Israeli deal is opening doors for future conflicts.

Mohammad Subeili, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the PLO owes its existence to the Arab countries and to the Arab summit meetings which declared that the organisation remains the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Therefore, he said, the PLO should seek endorsement of its agreement with Israel from the Arab League and should coordinate its steps with Jordan and the rest of the Arab countries.

Mahmoud Rimawi, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles serves as a tool for reconciliation among Arab states in that it had attracted the support of many of them, including the Gulf states.

If the Arab states have all agreed on a common ground for ending the Palestinian sufferings and reaching a peaceful settlement with the Israelis,

they can take serious action towards their own reconciliation, said the writer.

We are satisfied with the Gulf states' support for the PLO-Israeli deal, but we do hope that the Arab states, including the Gulf countries, will pursue efforts towards a full settlement that would witness full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, said the writer.

A columnist in Al Dustour voiced her opposition to the PLO-Israeli deal, noting that the delay in the discussion regarding the status of Jerusalem displays Israel's evil intentions and this means that we are going to have peace with Israel without Arab Jerusalem.

Mona Shuqair said that the PLO acted alone, without consulting with the Palestinian institution and the Palestinian people, and has committed the Palestinian forces to stifling the intifada.

The writer said that the deal did not tackle the question of Jewish settlements and made a mockery of the Palestinian negotiators' stand in Washington.

Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that no Arab leader has yet told the Arab masses about the future economic situation in the region in the wake of the PLO-Israeli deal.

The foreign news media abound with reports about economic projects and funds that will be affecting the region, but numerous questions remain to be asked about the links attached to such economic assistance to the region and whether these projects would really benefit the region's countries or those behind the PLO-Israeli deal.

Dr. Fahd Al Faneek, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the Palestinians have all the right to make their own decision concerning their own future. He said that residents of Amman, who have not suffered from the occupation nor from the result of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the destruction of Palestinian camps, have no right to interfere in the PLO deal.

The PLO, he added, is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and has all the right to take the appropriate decisions to end the people's sufferings.

Salameh Ekour said that had Jordan remained responsible for the West Bank, it would have demanded the full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and would not have accepted Jericho or Gaza as part of a step by step solution. The writer said that Jordan used to hold a negotiating card not available to the PLO.

He said that after waiting for two and a half hours at the airport, tens of families whose tickets had been already confirmed were turned back because there was no room on their plane flying to Saudi Arabia.

Saleiman Barmawi said that this was one of numerous incidents in which many travellers faced unnecessary delays due to incompetence and disregard to the time and the interests of the public.

Mohammad Daoud, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that work had started on opening a tunnel underground under the street in front of the University of Jordan's main entrance. But, he noted, this work has been delayed for ages and the delay withstood all the complaints and outcries over the recurring road accidents that took the lives of many innocent people. It is hoped now, said the writer, that the work on the tunnel will be completed before the rainy season.

Abdullah Al Khatib, a columnist in Al Dustour, predicted that the elections, predicted that the deputies they want to represent them and run their affairs in the coming four years.

The writer said the tendency now is for the clans and tribes to choose their own representatives in Parliament and therefore the role of the political parties in choosing their candidates for the Lower House comes as a second priority in various areas and constituencies.

The writer said that the Jordanian public is called upon to try to choose deputies who they believe would serve the national interest, disregarding all other considerations.

Mohammad Daoudieh, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that in the coming election campaign some candidates would resort to exploiting the name of God and the Koran in order to get support from the voters.

This attitude, said the writer, reflects the impotence of these candidates and their lack of self-confidence. The writer said he wished to see elections that would be fair and free, with the voters supporting only those who they believe would dedicate their time and effort to serve the public interest.

SOON WE SHALL ENTER THE COMPROMISED LAND.



Israel, PLO recognition is Mideast milestone

JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's signature on a document recognising the PLO on Friday is a historic milestone on the road to Middle East peace.

Here is a chronology of peacemaking in the Middle East, a cauldron of conflict since the birth of Israel.

May 1948 — Jewish settlers proclaim the state of Israel war breaks out with Arab neighbours. Israel annexes large tracts of proposed Arab state. Only the West Bank (under Jordanian administration) and the Gaza Strip (Egypt) remain in Arab hands.

1956 — Egypt nationalises Suez Canal, Israel attacks Sinai Peninsula, pushes towards canal. Anglo-French troops invade Egypt, withdraw under U.S. pressure.

1964 — Arab states create Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as nationalist movement. Yasser Arafat's movement Fatah carries out its first raid on Israel the following year.

June 1967 — Israel attacks Egypt, Syria and Jordan in what it says is a preemptive strike. In the Middle East war, Israel grabs Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt — Golan Heights from Syria, and West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan.

Nov. 1967 — U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 242, calling for Israeli withdrawal, recognition of all states in the area and a just settlement of refugee problem.

1969 — Fatah, its popularity boosted by guerrilla attacks on Israel, takes control of PLO and Arafat becomes PLO chairman. 1970 — Increasing strength of guerrilla groups in Jordan and succession of plane hijackings designed to publicise the Palestinian cause lead to conflict with the Jordanian army. Army wins, guerrillas take refuge in Lebanon.

Oct. 6, 1973 — Egypt and Syria attack Israeli forces in Sinai and Golan Heights.

Oct. 22 — U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 338 calling for a ceasefire, implementation of Resolution 242 and immediate negotiations to establish a just and lasting peace.

1977 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat goes to Jerusalem in dramatic peace bid. Other Arabs denounce him as a traitor.

Sept. 1978 — Egypt, Israel and the United States sign Camp David Accords, offering limited autonomy to Palestinians in occupied territories. Israel continues to refuse to deal with PLO and PLO rejects autonomy.

1979 — Israel and Egypt sign a peace treaty in Washington under which Israel agrees to hand back Sinai to Egypt. It keeps the Gaza Strip. Arab states impose boycott on Egypt.

June 1982 — Israel invades Lebanon to drive out Palestinian guerrillas threatening its northern border, besieges Beirut. Mr. Arafat and followers forced to disperse through Arab World.

Dec. 1987 — Palestinian uprising — the intifada — against Israeli rule starts in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Nov. 1988 — Palestine National Council declares a Palestinian state implicitly recognises Israel by endorsing Resolution 242. Dec. 1988 — Mr. Arafat recognises Israel's right to exist and renounces terrorism, leading to the first formal contacts between the PLO and the United States in 13 years.

May 1989 — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir presents four-point plan based on holding elections in the occupied territories. Rules out talks with the PLO and an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Oct. 1989 — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker offers five-point plan, rejected by Mr. Shamir after he forms right-wing coalition in June 1990.

Aug. 1990 — Iraq invades Kuwait. Mr. Arafat alienates West and Palestinians' Arab backers by supporting Saddam Hussein. March 1991 — U.S. President Bush says Gulf war victory opens "windows of opportunity" for resolution of Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Baker comes to Middle East on first of eight peace missions.

Aug. 1991 — Mr. Baker proposes Middle East conference by end of October. Mr. Shamir agrees to attend as long as issue of WHO represents Palestinians is settled.

Oct. 20 — Israeli cabinet says yes to U.S.-Soviet sponsored peace conference after Syria, Jordan and Lebanon agree to go. Oct. 30 — Palestinian delegation at Madrid talks comprises residents of Israeli-occupied territories at Israel's insistence, excluding PLO from formal participation. PLO officials direct the team.

June 23, 1992 — Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party ousts Mr. Shamir's Likud in national elections.

January 19, 1993 — Israel parliament lifts 1986 ban that made PLO contacts a crime.

Aug. 12 — Israel does not object to unprecedented appointment of seven Palestinian peace team members to the PLO committee headed by Mr. Arafat that directs the peace talks.

Aug. 24 — Mr. Arafat shaken by defections and charges he tried to run the PLO single-handed. Palestinians slash talks team from 25 to 12 because of cash crisis.

Aug. 26 — Israeli and Palestinian leaders predict breakthrough at next round of peace talks. PLO official says Israel and his organisation finalised provisional accord in secret contacts on partial autonomy in occupied territories.

Aug. 30 — Prime Minister Rabin says he believes agreement will be signed at Washington talks. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres says Israel could recognise PLO if it scraps sections of its charter calling for extermination of Israel and renounces terror.

Aug. 31 — Hours before talks resume, Israeli cabinet approves draft agreement with PLO on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza Strip and Jericho. PLO says charter denying Israel null and void. PLO official says negotiators agree text of Declaration of Principles of Palestinian self-rule in West Bank, Gaza.

Sept. 4 — Mr. Arafat says his mainstream Fatah faction approved a self-rule deal with Israel and mutual recognition could be only days away. The United States says it has offered Monday, September 13, as a possible date for Israel and the Palestinians to sign a historic peace agreement in Washington.

Sept. 6 — Mr. Arafat's proposed peace deal with Israel is welcomed by Gulf Arab states, but fails to win public approval from Syria and has yet to get Arab financial backing to make it work.

Sept. 9 — PLO Leader Yasser Arafat signs a letter recognising Israel and renouncing violence.

Sept. 10 — Mr. Arafat's letter is hand-carried to Israel by Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, whose country brokered the PLO-Israeli deal. Mr. Rabin signs document recognising the PLO, opens way to a signing ceremony on Monday in Washington for peace deal between the PLO and Israel.

Arafat — 'teflon guerrilla' turned peacemaker

TUNIS (R) — The fight is not yet over for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, warrior turned peacemaker.

Mr. Arafat has strode the world stage for three decades, instantly recognisable with his days-old stubble, military fatigues and chequered Arab headscarf folded in the shape of the Palestinian homeland for which he has fought tirelessly.

He hopes to go to Washington to sign an agreement on Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the presence of world dignitaries — a scene unthinkable just a few weeks ago let alone in the days when the Palestinian tactics earned notoriety stained with blood.

Mr. Arafat signed an historic accord recognising arch foe Israel on Thursday, Israeli recognition of the PLO should be a crowning achievement in his career.

But the man dubbed the "teflon guerrilla" for his slickness in bouncing back unscathed from crises must now persuade his querulous movement to back a peace deal which his hardline opponents call a sellout.

Mr. Arafat first the headlines in the 1960s as spokesman for a new breed of Palestinian — the young fedayeen, dispossessed, angry and dedicated to armed struggle against the Jewish state.

A quarter of a century later there has been compromise after compromise on the original Palestinian dream.

Now he is trying to drag reluctant Palestinians into the biggest compromise of all — Palestinian rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, with no sure guarantee of what will follow.

The land on offer is only a fraction of the land which the vast majority of Palestinians believe is theirs by right.

In Damascus on Thursday, Palestinian opposition groups vowed to sabotage the accord with Israel and set up an alternative to the PLO.

"We are capable of finding ways and means to do it," said a statement quoting Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

"We consider Arafat's leadership illegal. We want the election of a new leadership," the PFLP-GC said.

The feeling must be familiar to Mr. Arafat — the more he gains international respectability, hobnobbing with Israelis and western ministers, the more he alienates his old supporters.

Since Israel destroyed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a credible military force in Lebanon in 1982, Mr. Arafat has probably spent more time looking over his shoulder at his Palestinian opponents than waging any kind of war on Israel.

Many of them have turned against him over the years, angered by the way he takes unilateral decisions and imposes his own interpretation of PLO policy.

Abu Nidal left in 1973 and in 1983 Syria encouraged a PLO revolt in Lebanon. The rebels humiliated Mr. Arafat, forcing him and his guerrilla to leave from the northern port of Tripoli.

But in the past, through a mixture of pragmatic argument in private and sentimental rhetoric in public, Mr. Arafat has always managed to pull a majority of the PLO behind him.

Short, bald and portly, Mr. Arafat hardly cuts a heroic figure. But to Palestinians, even those lukewarm about his policies, he is known avuncularly as Abu Ammar, his *nom de guerre*, or as just Al Khitayar, the old man.

Born in Cairo on August 24, 1929, to a modest trading family, Mr. Arafat studied engineering at Cairo University.

He took part in the battles between Arabs and Jews on British withdrawal from Palestine in 1948 and then moved to Kuwait, where he set up a successful engineering business.

He and a small group of exiled Palestinians formed the first cell of the guerrilla movement Fatah in Kuwait in 1959. Fatah, now the largest PLO group, remains his powerbase.

The first political recognition came in 1963, when Algeria agreed to let Fatah open its first office abroad.

Another watershed was the start of guerrilla operations inside Israel in 1965. Mr. Arafat's leadership was acknowledged and in 1969 he became chairman of the PLO.

But power and popularity had its drawbacks. The PLO fell foul of Jordan's conservative leaders, and by July 1971 the guerrilla presence in Jordan was smashed. The remnants of Mr. Arafat's forces trickled into Lebanon.

Fatah's original programme called for a united Palestine in which Jews and Arabs would rule together.

But from the mid-1970s Mr. Arafat accepted and lobbied for the alternative of a smaller state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the territory captured by Israel in 1967. Military defeat, in Lebanon



Yasser Arafat

In 1982 and 1983, stimulated the search for a diplomatic solution.

In 1988 Mr. Arafat swung the Palestine National Council, the movement's parliament-in-exile, behind recognition of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 — one of the conditions the United States had set for a dialogue with the PLO.

Later in the year, after Mr. Arafat renounced "terrorism" and said Israel had a right to exist, the dialogue began. But it led nowhere and the United States broke it off six months later.

Mr. Arafat's campaign for international recognition suffered another setback when the PLO took Iraq's side in the crisis over the occupation of Kuwait.

He also faced serious criticism from within the PLO for the decision, which led to Arab Gulf states cutting off their substantial financial aid to the organisation. The resulting cash squeeze hit Palestinians dependent on PLO handouts as well as the organisation itself.

But when Middle East peace talks began in Madrid in 1991, the PLO was in the background as unofficial but widely recognised patron of the Palestinian negotiating team.

For years a bachelor who said he was tied to the Palestinian movement, Mr. Arafat eventually married Suha Tawil, a Palestinian Christian researcher less than half his age in 1992.

Marriage has had little effect on his old unsettled lifestyle of late-night political meetings and lightning visits to Arab and other capitals.

With recognition, Palestinian-Israeli bargaining starts

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The bargaining really just began Thursday.

After decades of bloodshed and pretense that each other's claims to the land were best ignored, Israel and the Palestinians agreed it was time to sit down and hammer out the details of how they can live side by side.

Leaders from both sides acknowledged that most of the work lies ahead. The first step is implementing Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. A rough outline was already worked out in months of secret negotiations in Norway.

"I would say 80 per cent remains open to negotiation on implementation," Mr. Rabin told Labour Party leaders hours before the recognition accords were announced.

That outline — basically a declaration of negotiating principles — goes into effect a month after it is signed. Then the sand starts running through the hourglass for implementation in six months. That means if both sides sign it Monday in Washington as planned, Palestinian autonomy will start on or before April 13, 1994.

There are difficult questions to wrangle over.

One is how Palestinians coming from Jordan will have access to the Jericho region while Israel keeps control over the border at the Allenby bridge.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat is likely to take a dim view of having his limousine stopped by an Israeli border guard.

No one is sure where the border of Jericho will be. Mr. Rabin said Thursday his government "will keep it as limited as possible."

No one is sure how Palestinian police can work with Israeli security forces. Rules for Palestinian elections due by July 1994 have not been set.

The agreement could give the right of return to about 70,000 Palestinians who fled the Jericho area during the 1967 Middle East war. But Israel is afraid if it agrees to the return of these refugees, the 3 million diaspora Palestinians will demand the same rights.

In both Gaza and Jericho, the two sides must agree on the acceptable distance for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from population centres. That agreement is supposed to be finished within two months.

Access to the port of Gaza — heavily policed now by the Israeli navy and other forces looking for arms smuggling by fishermen — is another major issue.

Travel between Gaza and Jericho is a problem because 60 miles of Israel lies in the middle. Mr. Rabin said access would be limited because it has proved a successful means of stopping attacks on Israelis. Permits for Palestinians to work in Israel are also an issue.

The two sides agreed to this limited autonomy because it was deemed easier than tackling Palestinian self-rule in all the occupied territories.

It avoids the main emotional issues. More than 3,500 Israeli settlers in Gaza and 120,000 on the West Bank — all believing they are there by divine right — will be allowed to stay put. Negotiations on refugees, borders, security arrangements and foreign relations all have been postponed.

Most of all, Jerusalem has been postponed.

Mr. Rabin said that was his main reason for accepting the self-rule agreement.

"That is the first thing. United Jerusalem is not included," Mr. Rabin told his fellow Labourites.

Both Israelis from the right, who reject the autonomy as inviting Israel's destruction, and the left say Jerusalem is indivisible and will always be Israel's capital.

Hints emerged that there might be some form of accommodation in the disputed city. The Palestinians might be able to run their own religious, legal, tax, education, sewage and other affairs as they gradually will gain authority to do throughout the West Bank under autonomy.

"The solution for Jerusalem will be a united city under the sovereignty of Israel as our capital," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, an architect of the peace plan, told a news briefing Thursday.

"This does not contradict any municipal arrangements of administrations or boroughs for the

different communities in Jerusalem."

The Palestinians plan to push that to the hilt.

Negotiator Sari Nusseibeh said the Palestinians will start building their institutions for autonomy in Jerusalem to emphasise the point.

They want that to lead to a state. They think they took the first step on the road Thursday.

"Lots of details are not negotiated," Mr. Nusseibeh told the Associated Press. But recognition between the PLO and Israel "means that it is the first tangible step in establishing our state and we hope it will be established by the end of interim period."

The clock on the interim period starts ticking as soon as the Israeli soldiers withdraw from Gaza and Jericho. Within five years, the permanent status of the occupied lands is supposed to be settled.



PLO recognition after 25 years that rocked world

By Michael Roddy
Reuters

NICOSIA — The PLO and Palestinian guerrillas spent 25 years waging a campaign of bombings, hijackings and assassinations to drive Israel into the sea.

In the end, a financially-strapped Palestine Liberation Organisation resorted to secret diplomacy to forge a deal with Israel. It agreed to recognise the Jewish state in return for self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Along the way, Palestinians blazed a spectacular trail of violence that shook the world.

From the 1972 Munich Olympic games where 11 kidnapped Israeli athletes and officials were killed, to the 1985 Rome and Vienna airport attacks which killed 16 people, including a child, the Palestinian cause became synonymous with violence on a global scale.

The Palestinians gave the world the Black September organisation, blamed for the Munich attack, and guerrilla leader Abu Nidal, described by the U.S. government as the head of "the most dangerous terrorist organisation in existence."

The West was forced to pay attention when Palestinians hijacked three airliners to the Jordanian desert in September 1970, where the aircraft went up in flames, and a Jumbo Jet to Cairo, where the 20 million plane was blown up.

George Habash and his Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) hijacked airliners and attacked Israeli buses. Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-General Command made ingenious raids on the Jewish state with hot-air balloons and motorised hang gliders.

PLO Leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement guerrillas in

1978 sent eight commandos by sea to Israel where they hijacked a bus on the coast road and forced it to take them to Tel Aviv where 37 people, including six commandos, were killed in a shootout.

In 1985, commandos linked to the Palestine Liberation Front hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro. Elderly Jewish passenger Leon Klinghoffer was shot and his body dumped in the Mediterranean.

The PLO, created by Arab states at a summit in Cairo in 1964, meanwhile trained guerrillas at secret bases and built up the Palestinian Liberation Army to fight the Israelis.

But the PLO and the guerrillas had neither the military muscle nor the political clout to bring Israel to its knees.

The Palestinian intifada in the occupied territories has fizzled after almost six years, the uprising snuffed out by Israeli security forces who killed at least 1,120 Palestinians and wounded tens of thousands of others.

Mr. Arafat's sympathy for Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and war over Kuwait cost the PLO hundreds of millions of dollars in support from rich Gulf Arab states. It is now nearly bankrupt.

These are only the latest of many reversals for the PLO during its more than quarter century of existence.

In September 1970, after guerrillas hijacked the western airliners to the Jordanian desert, Jordan's King Hussein sent loyalist bedouin troops against Palestinian camps around the capital Amman.

Hundreds of guerrillas were killed and Palestinians lost bases in the country with the longest border with Israel.

The Fatah core regrouped and guerrillas moved most of their activities to Lebanon. Palestinian leaders sanctioned the launching of the selective campaign that became known as the Black September organisation.

But Israel kept a lid on the Palestinian threat throughout the 1970s with repeated attacks on bases in Lebanon while hundreds of PLO members and supporters were killed during the Lebanese civil war.

A 1974 Arab summit bolstered the PLO's prestige by recognising it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. By this time, Mr. Arafat and his Fatah movement had taken control of the PLO while some former PLO members had split to form dissident groups.

In 1992 gunmen shot and critically wounded the Israeli ambassador to London. Israel, which had been watching Palestinian activities in Lebanon with growing alarm, launched a massive invasion which it soon became clear was intended to take Beirut.

With the Lebanese capital besieged, Mr. Arafat and thousands of his fighters were evacuated by ship. A month later, the Israeli troops stood by while Lebanese Christian militiamen attacked the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut, massacring hundreds of Palestinians.

The PLO moved its headquarters to Tunis. In November 1988, Palestinians in exile declared their own state and implicitly recognised Israel by endorsing U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

In December of that year, Mr. Arafat recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism. It led to the first formal contacts between the PLO and the United States in 13 years finally paved the way to negotiations culminating in the historic peace deal with Israel.

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Banking sources say Saudis cutting spending to curb deficit

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi Arabia is taking steps to cut its massive budget deficit by \$2 billion this year but Western media reports of imminent bankruptcy are wide of the mark, banking sources in the oil-rich Gulf state said.

The sources said the move to curb government spending would mean the ratio of deficit to gross domestic product should narrow from 9.3 per cent last year to 6.3 per cent this year.

"It is clear the country is operating under a budget deficit (and) if it continued to expand, I would be very worried," one banking source said in an interview in Jeddah.

"If it continues then the media reports make sense...but the authorities are already taking steps to deal with it," he said.

The sources said expenditure last year was about 270 billion riyals (\$54 billion) and unofficial estimates projected spending for this year to be about 196 billion riyals (\$39 billion).

Saudi Arabia expects its budget deficit to fall slightly this year to 26.7 billion riyals (\$5.3 billion) from 30 billion riyals (\$6 billion) last year.

The sources said the deficit-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio was 9.3 per cent last year, which by international standards was high. The international Monetary Fund has placed the country's current GDP at \$119 billion.

But the sources said the ratio was expected to narrow to 6.3 per cent this year and continue to shrink until it reached a more acceptable five per cent, much closer to the ratio in the United States of about 4.5 per cent.

The sources said the total public debt stood at about 250 billion riyals (\$50 billion), which they said was mostly financed by internal borrowing either from local banks or government bonds, which were first issued in 1988.

This figure was higher than other recent estimates of \$61 billion extrapolated from remarks by Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khail in a letter to the New York Times last month in which he sought to rebut the newspaper's gloomy reports on Saudi Arabia's economy.

Sheikh Abal Khail said Saudi public debt was no more than 52 per cent of GDP. With a GDP of \$119 billion, the minister's figure would suggest a total public debt of \$61 billion.

The banking sources said this level of debt as a percentage of GDP was "high but not critical."

"The country is not bankrupt," one source said.

The New York Times last week spoke of financial instability in Saudi Arabia and the Washington Post later quoted an expert as saying the country was bankrupt. This has been strenuously denied by Saudi officials.

The newspaper said Saudi Arabia ran its reserves down over the past decade to less than \$51 billion at the end of last year from \$121 billion, suggesting this would not be sufficient to retain the rial link to the dollar.

But the sources said they believed this was inaccurate and one added, "we don't expect the currency to be devalued."

The source said the government was very much aware of its economic problems and was looking at more ways to cut expenditures and increase revenues.

"They have to find a way to balance their books," he said, adding that the budget deficit could be cleared by raising tariffs on imports and privatising some state-owned companies.

State subsidies, for example on electricity and gasoline, could also be cut, the source said. Steps were already being taken to phase out subsidies on wheat exports by persuading farmers to grow barley and other crops currently imported.

Saudi Arabia's economy experienced a recession during the 1980s due to a fall in oil prices in 1986 and voluntary oil production cuts from 1981 to 1985. Several years of budget and current account deficit have eroded the kingdom's once substantial financial reserves.

But Saudi officials argue the economy had started to recover from the 1991 Gulf war, which cost Saudi Arabia \$35 billion directly and billions more indirectly, and the kingdom can afford to go ahead with plans to build a powerful modern state.

Report says Palestinian economic development, trade needed for peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Economic development for the Palestinians and regional economic cooperation are necessary if the Middle East peace process is to succeed, concludes a report issued by Harvard University's Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East.

The report is the product of unprecedented cooperation among economists from Israel, Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza, along with scholars from Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Throughout 18 months of discussions these economists worked together on practical aspects of a possible Middle East peace agreement — self-government for the Palestinians and free trade between Israel and its neighbours.

"There is a lot of political excitement about the Israeli-PLO accord, but at the same time, there needs to be sober thinking about the economics of self-government," Leonard Hausman, director of the institute, said during a Sept. 8 news conference.

Once a self-rule accord is signed, officials must turn to establishing policies and institutions for Palestinian economic development, he said. "Chief among the reports recommendations is the establishment of a private-sector-based, market-oriented economy in the West Bank and Gaza."

The creation of jobs, is equally important, Mr. Hausman stressed. While 9,000 Palestinian workers enter the job market every year, the Palestinian economy only generates 4,000 jobs, he noted.

While private sector jobs for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza must be expanded, Israel will continue to be an important source of employment for these workers, the report states.

The report strongly advises against Israeli restrictions on Palestinian employment in Israel. "The restriction now in place has led to substantial unemployment and growing poverty," particularly in Gaza, Mr. Hausman said.

The report advises against Jordan rapidly opening its labour market to the Palestinians. Such an influx of employment in Jordan would lower wages and create political tensions, the report cautions.

The economists advised the Palestinians to take over the Israeli civil administration in place and then develop their own institutions of economic management. The Palestinians must establish their own commercial banks and financial authorities, the report states.

PLO proposes economic blueprint for Palestinians

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — The PLO will propose to international donors an \$11.6 billion development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip which amounts to an economic blueprint for a future Palestinian state, officials said.

The "Palestinian Development Programme 1994-2000", a two-stage, five-year economic rehabilitation plan, focuses on using Palestinian expertise to build a modern economy.

At the core of the PLO vision is tapping the Palestinian diaspora's financial and human resources and attracting investment by wealthy Palestinian business leaders.

Some economists estimate that expatriate Palestinians hold about \$20 billion in assets outside the territories.

Lacking their own state, Palestinians have long helped form the backbone of many Arab economies but a PLO-Israeli recognition agreement Thursday paved the way for a deal granting them interim self-rule in the occupied territories.

"(The plan) underlines the importance of tapping the Palestinian human capital and accumulated experience in the export of skills...over the last few decades especially their role in modern nation-building in the oil-rich Gulf states," Yusef Sayegh, overall coordinator of the project, told Reuters recently.

Officials said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) position at a World Bank meeting in Washington this month will be based on the plan drawn up by a 90-member research team commissioned by the PLO's economic department over the past two years.

"Our plan which covers the whole of the occupied territories is now ready for implementation the moment we assume authority," Jawad Najji, the head of the PLO economic affairs and planning department, told Reuters Thursday.

The first stage for 1994 and 1995 aims at correcting economic imbalances caused by 26 years of Israeli military occupation by reactivating sectors capable of generating hard currency quickly, especially in tourism.

The second stage sets construction programmes including 175,000 new houses, training in high technology, engineering, health, and public administration and boosting export-generating sectors.

The PLO's vision is closest to the model of the geographically small but dynamic Asian states of Hong Kong and Singapore, with a well-educated labour force channelled into hi-tech industry.

Mr. Sayegh said \$2.5 billion would initially be needed to get the economy on its feet.

"The issue of funding during the interim period is not expected to be a major problem as international aid agencies have already expressed readiness to contribute," Mr. Najji said.

The World Bank has invited Israeli and Arabs to Washington this month to discuss its own \$4.3 billion economic development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the G-7 group of major industrialised nations is also expected to play a leading role.

The programme factors in expected compensation from Israel which officials said the PLO would request for the use of Palestinian land and water during military occupation.

An earlier plan specifies compensation demands of \$3 billion but it was not clear whether the figure is still valid.

Mr. Najji said the free-market Palestinian economy would have stronger links with other Arab states, particularly Jordan, than with Israel.

"We are aware of an Israeli thinking of using the area of Palestinian self rule as a bridge towards Arab markets...but our view is that of a Palestinian economy with an Arab focus to minimise the effects of such an Israeli trend," Mr. Najji said.

Cuba moves closer to mixed economy

HAVANA (R) — Cuba took another cautious but ground-breaking step towards establishing a mixed economy Thursday when its communist government authorised limited, individual private enterprise in a wide range of trades, crafts and services.

Ordinary Cubans welcomed the decision and predicted the return to city streets of private vendors and tradespeople who had disappeared after the so-called "revolutionary offensive" of the late 1960s when Cuba's rulers extended state control to all sectors of the economy.

"It looks like the beginning of a new stage," one Havana office worker said.

The move, announced in a decree law signed by President Fidel Castro, effectively lifted a longstanding virtual state monopoly of production, employment and sales on the communist-ruled Caribbean island.

A range of more than 100 trades and services were declared open to individual, private enterprise. These included taxi drivers, mechanics, plumbers, carpenters, painters, hair dressers, cobblers, cooks, domestics, craftsmen, farm products, salesmen and even computer programmers.

Citizens in Havana, tipped off by state radio reports, scrambled to find scarce copies of the official newspaper Granma to find out exactly what kind of economic activity they would legally engage in by themselves.

The authorities made clear the move was a direct response to Cuba's severe economic crisis, which had created unemployment among the island's nearly 11 million people, disrupted public services and caused shortages of food and basic consumer goods.

Although some very limited individual economic activity had been allowed in the past, foreign diplomats in Havana said the range of trades and services now opened up represented a major step towards allowing private initiative in an economy traditionally completely dominated by the Cuban state.

Cuban finance officials recently visited allies China and Vietnam and the diplomats said the latest move may have been influenced by examples in those two countries of private enterprise coexisting with a state-controlled economy.

Under the latest liberalisation, self-employed private entrepreneurs would be allowed to benefit directly from their work. "Direct sales to the population of goods and services produced by these workers will be permitted," a statement released by Cuba's state finance and labour committees said.

The statement outlining the regulations, published in Granma, added prices could be negotiated between buyers and sellers.

The latest move formed part of a group of economic reforms being implemented by the government to tackle a crippling economic recession triggered by the collapse of Cuba's trade and aid ties with the former Soviet Bloc, its main supplier and market for three decades.

In August, the authorities removed a ban on Cubans owning and using hard currency like dollars, the first of a series of proposed measures to boost the country's depleted hard currency income and overhaul state finances.

The published regulations barred university graduates, especially doctors, and company directors and management personnel from taking part in private economic activities, designated in Spanish as "trabajo por cuenta propia" (working on one's own account).

But workers, especially those unemployed or only partially employed because of the economic recession, housewives and retired people had the right to exercise private enterprise, as long as they did not employ other people.

Diplomats noted this formula appeared to leave the way open for private family businesses of the kind existing in China and Vietnam.

The regulations specified it would be up to the authorities to decide whether individuals could leave their state jobs to practice a private trade or service.

In contrast to many other developing countries, Cuba's previous virtual state monopoly of production, sales and employment had meant that its streets were always curiously empty of private vendors and tradespeople.

Private economic activity had been largely restricted to the large and flourishing, but clandestine, black market.

base in Shanghai, and Yunnan Airlines, in the southwest province of Yunnan, had the best records.

Aviation safety is a growing concern for China, where passenger traffic mushroomed 33 per cent last year. There are now more than a dozen inexperienced but hotly competitive carriers in the country, where once there was one.

Xinhua News Agency quoted CAAC Vice Director Ke Deming as saying the worst affected airports for punctuality were Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Beijing. China Eastern Airlines, overseas the nation's airlines, had decided to suspend temporarily the approval of new airlines and strictly curb imports of planes. It would concentrate instead on improving service, the daily said.

China's airlines have lost efficiency because of mechanical failures and too rapid growth, forcing authorities to suspend approval of new airlines and curb plane imports, the People's Daily has said.

Only 81.9 per cent of planes had left on schedule since May, down from 92.1 per cent in the same period last year.

The main reason was mechanical failure, accounting for 29 per cent of the delays, followed by bad weather, transport service problems and insufficient trained staff and equipment to keep up with rapid growth, the newspaper said.

It said that in recent years the growth in aviation traffic had averaged 30 per cent a year, making China one of the biggest aircraft customers in the world.

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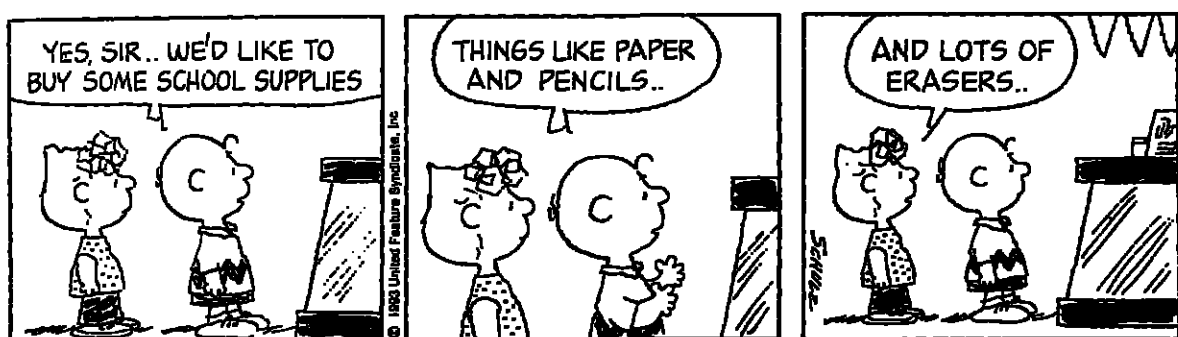
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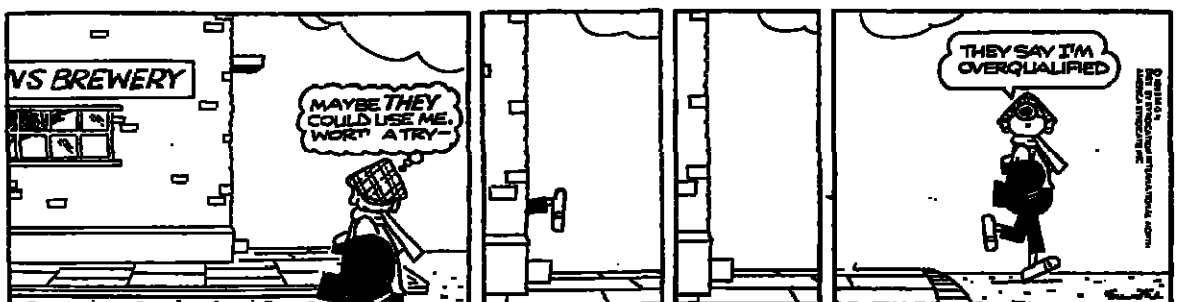
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Peanuts



Andy Capp

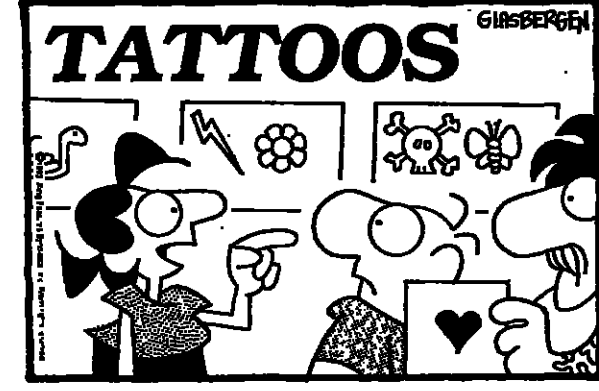


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"I think you should get a life-sized picture of Mel Gibson tattooed to the front of your body."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LYDOM
DATUL
SPOLGE
RICHEP

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: AROMA STOOP BUSILY DEMISE

Answer: What the lowest voice in the prison quartet was—A STRIPED BASS

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: AROMA STOOP BUSILY DEMISE

Answer: What the lowest voice in the prison quartet was—A STRIPED BASS

Japanese business confidence plunges to new low

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese business confidence deteriorated further in August, surpassing the 18-year low recorded in February and May, the Bank of Japan said Friday in its quarterly short-term survey of economic enterprises.

The central bank said its diffusion index of business conditions for large manufacturers slipped from minus 49 points, when the last two surveys were carried out, to minus 51 points in the latest survey.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to get away from it all or to imbue yourself with a fresh new attitude on whatever has been baf-filing you recently. Get into logical reasoning and work out problems with mental ingenuity.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get into those public and worldly activities that you have put off and that are awaiting your attention and you should make progress in completing them well.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A day for you to investigate whatever you can do to increase your well being even if it means taking a journey to acquire needed information.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A day to look into your bills, statements, reports and account and to get them worked out so you can handle them in an efficient manner.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can get in touch with outside partners and associates and have a conversation concerning your joint interests with excellent results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your day to take a good look at just how you have been performing the promises you have made and to revise whatever does not suit your studies.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A fine day to perfect whatever

hobbies you enjoy the most and to get them on a really working basis for you let congenial experts aid you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Many domestic tasks face you and await your careful attention so utilize your ability at neat touch and precision to perfect conditions there.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about what shopping and errands you can now put behind you and also get into whatever communication or transportation problems face you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A right good day to look at your property, to see what it needs done to improve its appearance or value and to do the jobs at once.

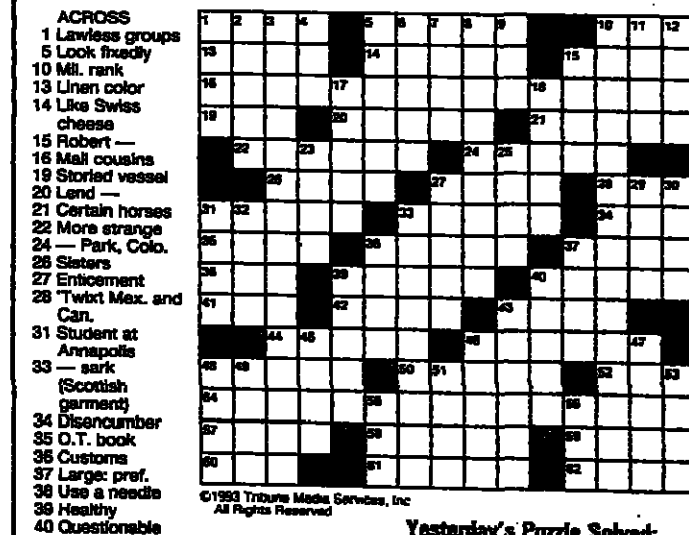
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have many personal things to do both where your health and also where your personal appearance may be concerned so this is the day, for such.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Behind the scenes and intimate tasks should be the order of this day for you so get into whatever chores await your attention, do them well.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your day to consider your various friends and acquaintances and just what you can do to make them clearer and more aware of your affection for them.

THE Daily Crossword

by James Barrick



ACROSS
1 Lawless groups
5 Look ready
10 Mill, rank
13 Linen color
14 Like Swiss cheese
15 Robert —
16 Mail cousins
19 Storied vessel
20 Land —
21 Certain horses
22 More strange
26 Park, Colo.
28 Sifters
27 Enticement
28 Twirl Mex. and Can.
31 Student at Annapolis
33 — stark
34 Scottish garment
34 Discomfiter
35 O.T. book
36 Customs
37 Large prof.
38 Use a needle
39 Healthy
40 Questionable
41 Actress Sothorn
42 Means of propulsion
43 Contest
44 Hangout
45 Succor
46 Show off
50 Heads
52 Large parrot
54 Of fundamental importance
57 Hill
58 Music maker
59 Quechua
60 Taby's contents
61 Mimicry
62 Rippling facet

DOWN
1 Hill
2 Earthy pigment
3 Jack
4 Have a meal
5 Potholes
6 Flirt
7 Marine growth
8 Formed anew
9 Inspect
10 Like a hedonist
11 Part of speech
12 Nerdy girl
15 Raison d'—
17 Oil or grease
18 Smart
19 Smart
23 Regrets
25 Posses for a portrait
27 Scottish poet
29 Sorrowsound
30 Call it — (quit)
31 Spanish
32 Swelling
32 So be it
33 Woeing
36 Mourntful sound
37 "La Boheme"
38 Cardinal point
40 Disk
43 Uppr. class
45 Commedia
46 Appraiser
47 Stolen goods dealer
48 Armazons
49 Buckle
51 Point of land
53 Chinese garment
55 Spring
56 Estuary

Dollar shrinks against the deutschemark again

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

Overview

Fundamental view: A surprisingly weak U.S. employment report for August triggered further dollar weakness against the Deutsche mark amid mounting concerns about the strength of the U.S. expansion. A modest improvement in German growth in recent months and the Bundesbank's refusal to cut interest rates have also contributed to dollar weakness. But our U.S. analysts believe that concerns about faltering U.S. growth are overdone, with 3 per cent growth likely for the third and fourth quarters. We continue to look for the dollar to strengthen to the DM 1.90 level over the next twelve months as European interest rates decline. Although central bank intervention and expectations of a near-term cut in Japan's discount rate have helped the yen return to the 105 level against the dollar, we expect the yen to trade in the 90-to-110 range against the dollar for the next twelve months.

Technical view: For the week ended Sept. 3, the U.S. dollar index fell more than 1.3 per cent. This represented the third consecutive weekly decline and the fourth loss in five weeks. The week was characterised by some volatility as the greenback lost 2.5 per cent or more versus both the Swiss franc and the Deutsche mark, while rallying by a similar amount against the Australian dollar. For the month of August, the index fell 1.5 per cent. At this point, both short and medium term sentiment indicators are generally neutral and improving.

However, the price weakness over the past month has allowed both short and — importantly — medium term oscillators to deteriorate. The short term oscillator is now near oversold, the dollar index is testing support, and the index has not experienced four consecutive weekly declines since April. All of this suggests that the index is positioned for a short term rally, a move back above 93,000 could well be a signal that such a rally was under way. Nonetheless, the medium term trend remains downwardly biased, suggesting that any nearby rally will not be counter trend and will not be technically confirmed. Support for the index is indicated in the 91.00-93.00 range; a break of that band would imply a full blown test of the May lows near 88.00. Resistance above 93.00 exists at 94.40-94.70.

Deutsche mark

Fundamental view: The dollar lost further ground against the Deutsche mark in recent days following a weak U.S. jobs report for August amid other evidence of sluggish U.S. growth. We view the dollar's recent weakness against European currencies as a temporary correction and continue to look for a stronger dollar against all

European currencies over the next twelve months. Our European economics group does not view the 0.5 per cent rise in German GNP in the second quarter as the beginning of economic recovery and expects Germany's recession to persist well into next year. If our expectations for U.S. growth in the second half turn out to be overly optimistic, the dollar could stay weaker for longer than we previously thought. But prospects for a drop in German short-term rates of 200 or more basis points over the next twelve months should eventually dominate concerns about the U.S. economy. We are maintaining our six- and 12-month DM/U.S. dollar forecasts of 1.85 and 1.90. We continue to expect German 3-month money rates to fall to at least 4.5 per cent by mid-1994 from 6.5 per cent currently.

Technical view: The Deutsche mark rose 2.5 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week and has now rallied over 7.5 per cent from its late July lows. As a result, sentiment toward the Deutsche mark is beginning to reflect this strength as both short and medium term sentiment indicators are in overbought territory. Short term momentum has confirmed the recent strength but is at its most overbought level since April. Medium term oscillators have only recently reversed to the upside and should have some staying power. All of this suggests that, if the current highs near 1.62 DM/U.S. are decisively broken, further strength toward the twin peaks recorded last May and December in the 1.55-1.57 range would be likely. Support is now apparent at 1.667 and 1.695.

Despite the recent deep oversold condition, the mark/yen cross-rate has now moved through the 62-64 trading range and has done so with solid short and medium term momentum indications. While the possibility of a retest of the recent lows still exists, the probabilities of such a test have weakened. Support in the low 60s appears to be fairly strong and it will take some effort to break that area for a move to benchmark support near 57-58. Significant chart resistance exists at 70.

Sterling

Fundamental view: The pound has firmed against the dollar in recent days amid weaker-than-expected U.S. data. Despite the pound's recent rally versus the dollar, we continue to maintain the view that the dollar will march higher against the pound and other key European currencies in the next 12 months. The pound is likely to appreciate further against the Deutsche mark as the recovery in the U.K. gains momentum. Recent U.K. economic indicators are consistent with close to 2 per cent growth this year and we expect real GDP growth to accelerate next year to 3.5 per cent. While we expect the U.K. to cut interest rates by 50 basis points in the near term, it is highly unlikely that U.K. rates will fall by as much as German rates over the next 12 months. Recessionary conditions in Germany and expectations of further cuts in official German interest rates should

be a fundamental force pushing the pound higher against the DM.

Technical view: The British pound rallied 1.5 per cent last week and has broken up and out of its long standing 1.47-1.52 U.S./BP trading range. Sentiment has deteriorated somewhat as short term indicators are neutral and medium term measures are coming off of oversold readings. By contrast, both short and medium term momentum measures have confirmed the breakout. This suggests a good possibility that the currency will be able to test the April highs just below \$1.59. There is interim resistance just below \$1.54. The recent trading range is likely to provide strong support, although we will continue to keep important long-term support at 1.40-1.42 in mind. Versus the DM, the cross-rate has recently tested 2.47 and seems to be on the way to testing indicated support at 2.45. However, short term momentum has not confirmed these recent lows and this, plus the proximity of support, at least allows for the possibility of a rally back to perhaps 2.52-2.54. However, medium term momentum remains weak, and any such rally will likely be short lived.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: After reaching an historic high of 100.3 against the dollar on August 17, the yen has been pushed back to the 105 level by repeated central bank intervention by the bank of Japan and the U.S. We have recently cut our forecast for Japanese GDP growth for 1993 from 1.0 per cent to 0.5 per cent and expect sub-3 per cent growth next year as well. Weak growth should help keep Japan's current account surpluses in the vicinity of \$140 billion this year and next, keeping upward pressure on the yen against the dollar and European currencies. We are increasingly skeptical that currently envisioned fiscal and monetary policies will make a substantial dent in Japan's current account position, and are raising our 6- and 12-month forecasts for the yen/dollar rate to 100 and 95 respectively. Japanese investors remain quite cautious about financing the surplus by recycling funds to overseas financial markets, further currency strength will be needed. Over the next twelve months, we look for the yen to trade in a broad range of 90-to-110 against the dollar.

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell 0.9 per cent versus the dollar last week, but put/call ratios (i.e., short term sentiment) remain constructive. At the same time, medium term sentiment is deteriorating and is currently viewed as neutral, short term momentum continues to have a downward bias, but is at its most overbought reading since last November. While medium term oscillators also continue to have a downward bias, they are still viewed as being near overbought parameters. The recent highs near 100 JY/US\$ should provide both technical and psychological resistance for the currency, but any strength back to those highs is not likely to be confirmed and would only strengthen the evidence for a correction. Former resistance around 105 is now acting as good first support; 110-112 viewed as likely second support.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
WEEKLY MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (04/09/1993 - 08/09/1993)					
WEEKLY REPORT					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	TRADING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	LAST PRICE
ARAB BANK	1,239,000	170.000	170.000	170.000	170.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	104,000	5.700	5.700	5.700	5.700
ALFARO BANK	2,120	30.500	30.500	30.500	30.500
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	20,500	4.070	4.070	4.070	4.070
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	50,000	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	62,283	1.970	1.970	1.970	1.970
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	275,519	4.950	4.950	4.950	4.950
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	214,218	2.880	2.880	2.880	2.880
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	26,450	4.950	4.950	4.950	4.950
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	20,449	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	15,467	4.950	4.950	4.950	4.950
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	43,032	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	37,150	6.200	6.200	6.200	6.200
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	32,408	4.700	4.700	4.700	4.700
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	53,751	4.700	4.700	4.700	4.700
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	7,004	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	174,866	2.200	2.200	2.200	2.200
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	57,760	3.900	3.900	3.900	3.900
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	100,411	3.700	3.700	3.700	3.700
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,946	1.400	1.400	1.400	1.400
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,000	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	24,340	2.870	2.870	2.870	2.870
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	835	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12,270	7.700	7.700	7.700	7.700
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,337,412	2.040	2.040	2.040	2.040
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	10,554	1.240	1.240	1.240	1.240
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	20,712	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	113,791	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.800
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	488	1.300	1.300	1.300	1.300
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	110,499	0.910	0.910	0.910	0.910
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,213	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.800
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	64,419	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.800
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	37,049	2.150	2.150	2.150	2.150
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	220,364	2.410	2.410	2.410	2.410
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	11,327	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.100
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	334,316	2.750	2.750	2.750	2.750
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,137	2.750	2.750	2.750	2.750
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	42,352	4.900	4.900	4.900	4.900
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,355	7.800	7.800	7.800	7.800
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,584	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	109,376	6.770	6.770	6.770	6.770
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	120,918	10.770	10.770	10.770	10.770
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	536,576	6.600	6.600	6.600	6.600
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	50,272	7.500	7.500	7.500	7.500
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	24,340	2.300	2.300	2.300	2.300
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	49,044	3.900	3.900	3.900	3.900
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	6,093	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12,740	2.700	2.700	2.700	2.700
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	18,000	18.000	18.000	18.000	18.000
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	44,326	3.850	3.850	3.850	3.850
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12,847	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	674,412	15.700	15.700	15.700	15.700
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	42,364	2.450	2.450	2.450	2.450
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	304,250	9.210	9.210	9.210	9.210
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,990	1.800	1.800	1.800	1.800
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,414	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.600
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	47,342	5.500	5.500	5.500	5.500
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	35,200	3.700	3.700	3.700	3.700
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	26,547	3.400	3.400	3.400	3.400
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	20,516	1.800	1.800	1.800	1.800
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	16,215	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	864	4.550	4.550	4.550	4.550
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	34,866	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	19,250	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	259,240	8.100	8.100	8.100	8.100
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	34,464	3.520	3.520	3.520	3.520
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	30,313	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	25,340	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9,217	2.720	2.720	2.720	2.720
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	165,494	9.200	9.200	9.200	9.200
ALFARO BANK FOR INVESTMENT	356,621				

Financial Markets					
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank.					
Previous Metals					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	351.25	7.00	Silver	4.23	0.100
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin					
Date: 9/9/1993					
Currency	Bid	Offer	Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6890	0.6910			
Sterling Pound	1.0600	1.0655			
Deutsche Mark	0.4259	0.4280			
Swiss Franc	0.4861	0.4885			
French Franc	0.1209	0.1213			
Japanese Yen	0.6555	0.6568			
Dutch Guilder	0.3791	0.3810			
Swedish Krona	0.0864	0.0868			
Italian Lira	0.0441	0.0443			
Belgian Franc	0.01956	0.01966			
Other Currencies					
Currency	Bid	Offer	Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7970	1.8270			
Lebanese Lira	0.039375	0.040545			
Saudi Riyal	0.1753	0.1850			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3350			
Qatari Riyal	0.1860	0.1877			
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300			
Omani Riyal	1.7520	1.8020			
UAE Dirham	0.1860	0.1877			
Greek Drachma	0.29075	0.33750			
Cypriot Pound	1.3475	1.3855			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES					
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.					
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3140/50	Canadian dollar	1.6055/60	Deutschemarks	1.8045/55
	1.4050/60	Dutch guilders	34.40/55	Swiss francs	5.6450/50
	1550.0/2.0	Belgian francs	106.40/50	French francs	7.8830/30
	7.0080/80	Italian lire	6.6450/50	Japanese yen	154.60/70
	154.60/70	Swedish crowns	135.60/70	Norwegian crowns	135.60/70
	135.60/70	Danish crowns			
One sterling	1.3475				
One ounce of gold	356.20/356.70				

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Russia, Turkey will cooperate in ending Karabakh conflict

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia and Turkey will cooperate in ending the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said today.

Tancred Ciller did not detail the cooperation, but Mr. Yeltsin himself refused to singling out one side for blame in the conflict raging between Russia's neighbours in the former Soviet Union.

But Mrs. Ciller said Mr. Yeltsin had agreed that recent warfare constituted "Armenian aggression, that it is against the law and should be stopped." She made the comments during a news conference after a two-day visit to Russia, a historical rival with Turkey in the Caucasus region.

Armenian and Azerbaijani forces have been fighting for five years over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, located within the Azerbaijan and populated mostly by Armenians. The war has claimed 15,000 lives and turned about 1 million people into refugees.

In recent months, Armenian-backed forces from Nagorno-Karabakh have taken control of the territory and pushed outside it into Azerbaijan proper, seizing towns and coming close to the Iranian border.

The offensive has alarmed Turkey and Iran, which have been competing with Russia for influence in oil-rich Azerbaijan. Iran and Turkey last week began mov-

ing troops to their borders with Azerbaijan, raising fears of a clash.

Mrs. Ciller's statement could help lower tensions that rose last week after she herself threatened war if Armenia attacks Nakhichevan, an Azerbaijani enclave that Turkey is bound to protect under international treaties.

But on Thursday, Mrs. Ciller said she saw no immediate threat to Nakhichevan.

A NATO member, Turkey is concerned over Azerbaijan's recent tilt toward Russia, which came after pro-Turkish President Abulfaz Elchibey was ousted in a military revolt in June.

The new leader, Azerbaijan's ex-communist party boss Geidar Aliyev, plans to join the Commonwealth of Independent States and its Russian-dominated collective security pact. This week, he won a pledge of help from Russia to end the war, although it remained unclear how Russia would help.

For its part, Russia is concerned about the Turkish build-up on Armenia's border, which Russian troops are helping guard. Russia also resents Turkey's effort to expand its influence in Azerbaijan and Central Asia.

Despite the friction, relations between Russia and Turkey have been improving since the Soviet collapse in 1991. Mrs. Ciller unveiled plans for economic cooperation, including doubling the imports of Russian natural gas to four billion cubic metres a year starting in 1996.

Diplomats also were working on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict Thursday. The Minsk group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe began a three-day round of informal talks in Moscow in an attempt to reach a ceasefire, news reports said.

Mrs. Ciller has suggested sending observers to the Caucasus to Mr. Yeltsin, the semi-official Turkish News Agency, Anatolia, reported Friday.

According to the agency's correspondent, who accompanied Mrs. Ciller on her return last Thursday from two days of talks in Moscow, the proposal was welcomed as "positive" by Mr. Yeltsin. It did not say whether the observers would be a mixture of Turks and Russians or only Turks.

Mrs. Ciller, who is advocating "cooperation rather than confrontation" with the Russians, told reporters on the plane back to Ankara that she had not proposed putting together a "Turko-Russian peace force" to end the conflict. Turkish press reports had said she would make such a suggestion in talks with Mr. Yeltsin Thursday.

She said that the constitution of such a peace force would have to be at the request of Azerbaijan, "an independent and sovereign country. Without a request from Baku, nobody can do anything," Mrs. Ciller said.

Meanwhile, Armenia has accused Ukraine of supplying Azerbaijan with tanks, aircraft and weapons for use in its war against

Armenian separatist forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Interfax News Agency reported Thursday.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry has protested to the Kiev government, claiming it has delivered to Azerbaijan nine tanks and MiG-21 fighters, among other weapons, the agency reported.

The separatist forces of Nagorno-Karabakh have already shot down two of the Ukrainian fighters.

The Foreign Ministry said Kiev has agreed to supply another 40 tanks to Azerbaijan.

The Ukrainian arms supplies "run contrary to the international community's efforts" to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by negotiation, the Foreign Ministry statement added.

Meanwhile, Iran has expressed concern about an escalation of the war in a message to the Yerevan government, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said separately.

Iranian envoy Sakhran Hasseini delivered a letter from Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to his Armenian counterpart, Vahan Papazian, in Yerevan Thursday, the Foreign Ministry said, cited by Interfax.

Tehran condemned the Armenian separatist forces recently when they advanced south from Nagorno-Karabakh towards the Iranian border. Iranian troops recently held manoeuvres near its border with southwest Azerbaijan.



A South African policeman stands in a township taxi gunmen near Kaitshong east of Johannesburg (AFP photo)

6 more killed in S. African townships

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The death toll in Johannesburg's troubled eastern townships rose Friday to at least 34 in three days with the discovery by South African police of six bodies.

A police statement said the bodies were recovered Thursday from Kaitshong and Tokelo, which together with Veduto form a belt of fast-growing townships on Johannesburg's eastern industrial area.

A man was killed by a bullet after he had run away from a petrol in Ekurhuleni, the police statement also reported.

Violence flared Wednesday when gunmen slung acid on 25 people at a taxi rank in Winderville, a factory suburb near the three townships.

Hours after the taxi massacre, gunmen struck again, killing two taxi passengers at a taxi rank in Kaitshong.

Another two people were killed in a coyote attack on a vehicle travelling in a township early Thursday.

The shootings came a day after democracy negotiators agreed on a draft bill, which would end the white-minority government's exclusive rule over the country.

The African National Congress (ANC) said the eruption of violence was part of a pattern of

killings after political breakthrough.

The killings were also condemned by President F. W. de Klerk and the ANC's bitter rival Inkatha Freedom Party.

More than 1,100 people have been killed in political violence in South Africa in the two months since negotiators set April 27 as the date for the country's first non-racial election.

Mr. Buthelezi has set a watchdog council to be set up ahead of elections will fuel political violence.

"The Transitional Executive Council (TEC) on its own will guarantee escalating violence and the growth of deep discontent and resentment," Mr. Buthelezi said Thursday in a speech in Uitenhage, capital of his black Kwazulu-Natal province.

Mr. Buthelezi, whose delegates quit the constitutional talks two months ago in protest at their failure to sway decision making, said decisions at the talks "can only be implemented through the barrel of a gun."

"The potential for action against the election is already high and will grow weekly," Mr. Buthelezi said, adding that the poll was aimed at consolidating ANC power and would spell the death of democratic aspirations. The ANC, whose rivalry with

Inkatha underlies much of the violence in which 17,000 people have been killed in eight years, blamed the latest killings on forces intent on sabotaging progress towards elections.

The ANC said the massacre at the taxi rank was clearly linked to the TEC agreement and followed a pattern whereby break-throughs in negotiations were followed by outbreaks of violence.

The Pretoria Supreme Court Thursday threw out a legal challenge to the election date brought by the KwaZulu government. Mr. Buthelezi said the ruling would not lead to the home and's return to talks.

Mr. Klerk said Thursday the latest violence appeared to result from ANC-Inkatha rivalry.

"Preliminary indications ... point to a political motive for these latest atrocities, which appear to be linked to the current cycle of intolerance, intimidation and conflict involving supporters of the Inkatha and the ANC," he said.

ANC President Nelson Mandela expressed anger at the taxi rank massacre.

"Whenever we make a breakthrough, then these massacres occur. It is quite clear that they come from those elements that are against a peaceful settlement," he said.

Ukraine chief asks premier to stay on

KIEV (AP) — Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk today asked Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, who has tendered his resignation for the fourth time, to stay on until parliament has completed work on a new economic programme, local radio reported.

The radio said Mr. Kravchuk, who was assigned to the post after the previous day, had

to hold a final decision on his departure until after the assembly's deliberations were over.

The assembly's parliament, which was dissolved last month after government for Ukraine's economic collapse, has come up with its own economic plan and has sent it to a commission for drafting a new constitution, local radio reported.

Mr. Kuchma, a former state factory manager who is one of the few politicians to retain public popularity, said Thursday that the experiences of the past three months had shown that "the executive is no longer able to govern."

His chief complaint has been that both the president and parliament have refused to give him sufficient powers to implement reforms.

NATO can act alone—Woerner

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is not merely a peacekeeping tool of the United Nations and should be able to act in a crisis independently, NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner said Friday.

In a speech here, Mr. Woerner also said the time had come to firm up prospects of eventual NATO membership for Central and Eastern European states even if there are no immediate plans to enlarge the 16-member alliance.

Mr. Woerner made his remarks to the annual conference of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) and a growing dispute over the role of NATO and the United Nations in European peacekeeping.

Although he has repeatedly called the alliance merely a tool in carrying out international U.N. military policies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Woerner suggested Friday that NATO could sometimes take the lead.

"NATO cannot be regarded as an instrument or as a military sub-contractor to the United Nations," he said. "Nor do we expect the United Nations should accept NATO's leadership."

"Both must retain the possibility to act independently," the NATO chief said.

Mr. Woerner said the two organisations were complementary, matching NATO's military muscle with the United Nations' broad diplomatic backdrop. He called for a partnership between them but conceded it would not be easy.

Relations between the two have come under scrutiny following criticism of U.N. military actions in Somalia and questions over how a multinational force would operate to police an eventual Bosnia peace settlement.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Wednesday the United States would contribute troops for Bosnia only if it were a NATO operation. But France insisted Thursday that all such actions should be under U.N. authority.

Mr. Woerner said the Bosnian conflict had demonstrated the need for a sharp definition of the intended mission, as well as a clear mandate, unified command and delineation of responsibilities for the groups involved.

On a broader level, Mr. Woerner reaffirmed the need to maintain the alliance's strong U.S. link but called on European states to assume more responsibility for security in their own area.

"Public opinion in the United States will not be indifferent to what it perceives as the failure of Europe to defend its own interests," he said. "The result can only be a more reluctant U.S. leadership, and less involvement of the United States."

Mr. Woerner said that one of the priorities of the NATO summit tentatively scheduled to be held here in January should be to "open up a more concrete perspective" of membership for the Central and East European states.

NEW IN BRIEF

Sihanouk has tumour, delays return

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk said he has a tumour and will not be able to return home from Peking until it is removed. "This new health problem adds to my previous problems, especially the burgeoning of my large and small arteries. I therefore must continue treatment in Peking," the Cambodian head of state said in a statement he sent to the royal palace in Phnom Penh late Thursday. "I will immediately return to the motherland to be near and serve my compatriots when the health problems pertaining to the growth are cured," he said, adding his return would now be delayed two or three weeks. Prince Sihanouk's fascsimile message said the operation involved removal of a tumour at the end of his large intestine.

Colin Powell to serve in public life

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gen. Colin Powell has said he feels an obligation "to do something in public life" after taking time off to write his memoirs and enjoy his life. "I don't want to go off to the mountains and not come back," he added, but he wouldn't say never. Gen. Powell, appointed by President George Bush, has been mentioned as a possible Republican presidential candidate. In an interview with the Associated Press, the retiring chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff discussed his 35-year military career, which officially ends on Sept. 30 when the baton is passed to Gen. John Shalikashvili. Gen. Powell was the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the youngest man ever to hold the office. As the nation's top military officer during the Gulf War, Gen. Powell became a well-known figure to the American public. And his stock as a possible political candidate seems high. In the interview, Gen. Powell gave the strongest indication yet that he did not intend to disappear from the public arena.

N. Korean defector fuels nuclear fears

SEOUL (R) — A North Korean secret agent who last week defected to the South Friday fuelled Western suspicions that Pyongyang has developed a nuclear bomb. Ahn Myung-In told a news conference organised by Seoul's Defence Ministry that the government in Pyongyang regularly told North Koreans they were being patriotic by keeping the Stalinist nation's nuclear capacity a secret. "In North Korea we are educated by the government to tell foreigners we don't have nuclear weapons, even if we do," Mr. Ahn told reporters. But he said he had no definite knowledge of Pyongyang's nuclear capability. Pyongyang officially denies there are any nuclear weapons in North Korea but has refused to allow international inspectors into two plants where Seoul and its allies believe an atomic arsenal is being assembled.

U.S., S. Korea discuss nuclear threat

SEOUL (R) — Senior U.S. and South Korean officials met Friday to work out joint efforts to persuade North Korea to accept inspections of its suspected nuclear arms sites. Robert Gallucci, Washington's chief negotiator with Pyongyang, held talks with South Korean Assistant Foreign Minister Shin Ki-Bock to try to improve the bleak prospects for detente across the cold war border. "This session is a necessary and valuable consultation at this very difficult juncture in addressing North Korea's nuclear problem," Mr. Shin at the start of the session, attended by 12 delegates from each side. The North dashed hopes for resumption of long-stalled nuclear talks with the South this week when it demanded Seoul declare a halt to its annual military exercises with the United States before any contact took place.

Greece to hold elections on Oct. 10

ATHENS (AFP) — Greek President Constantinos Caramanlis announced Friday that early general elections would be held on Oct. 10 as he signed a decree dissolving parliament in the wake of defections in the ruling conservative New Democratic Party. An official communiqué said the new parliament would be summoned to meet on Oct. 25. He also gave key portfolios to three independent personalities ahead of the new polls. Aristovoulos Manessis, a professor of constitutional law, was named interior minister to succeed Ioannis Kefaloyiannis, retired General Dimitris Manikas took over the public order portfolio from Nikolaos Gelesthatis and senior judge George Playanmakos replaced Anna Psarouda-Benaki as justice minister.

Tajik rebels destroy Russian depots

DUSHANBE (AFP) — Muslim rebels in Tajikistan attacked and destroyed six Russian army artillery munitions depots near Dushanbe, triggering huge explosions and fires that continued to burn Friday, officials said. The attack Thursday, the most serious assault by rebels near the capital in nearly a year, coincided with a visit to Dushanbe by Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev who has been urging the government to negotiate with the armed Muslim opposition. Colonel Sviatoslav Nabzdorov, chief of staff of the Russian army's 210th Motorized Division in Tajikistan, said the blasts and fire caused no casualties and posed no immediate danger to residents in Laur where the depots were located. Local residents were however evacuated as a precautionary measure as troops fought to extinguish the blazes, he said, adding that some 1,000 tonnes of artillery shells and other weapons stocks had been destroyed in the attack.

Estonia seeks Pope's help over Russian troops

TALLINN (AFP) — Pope John Paul II arrived here Friday for a 10-hour visit to Estonia and was immediately confronted with the tiny Baltic state's "Russian problem."

President Lennart Meri, who was held with his family in a camp in the Russian gulag from 1941, told him: "The second world war and its aftermath are still felt in Estonia."

Mr. Meri hailed the Vatican for refusing to recognise Soviet annexation of the Baltic states, and asked the Pope to intervene so that Estonia could become completely independent. He hoped Pope John Paul's visit would encourage the Catholic world to exert its strong moral power in Europe to speed up signature of an agreement for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Estonia as soon as possible and without any conditions by either side.

"The departure of the last foreign soldier and the dismantling of the last military installation on our soil will mark the moment when tiny Estonia finally restores its independence and when Russia at last regains its dignity as a great power," the president said.

There are still 6,000 Russian troops in Estonia. Where the big Russian-speaking minority accounts for 38 per cent of the population of 1.6 million people. The Russians generally do not speak Estonian, a difficult language allied to Finnish, but legislation on citizens' stipulates passing an examination in it.

The Pope touched on that issue in a meeting with intellectuals, warning that "language ought to be an instruct of identity, not a barrier which separates." That was all the truer in a multi-ethnic context, where welcome and respect for different languages and cultures was a condition for peaceful coexistence, Pope John Paul said. At a time of great tension on the international scene, the feeling of rediscovered freedom and identity should be accompanied by openness to dialogue and solidarity, the Pope said.

Marcos's body goes on display in glass coffin

BATAC, Philippines (R) — The body of former President Ferdinand Marcos was laid to rest on Philippine soil Friday, encased in a glass casket and put on display.

After angry enclaves in defence of the man accused by his enemies as a tyrant and a thief, Marcos was interred in a stone mausoleum and Filipinos got their first chance to see the man since he was ousted from power in 1986.

"He looks like he's sleeping," said former Arnold Bacis after fighting to be among the first to get a view of Marcos, who died four years ago in exile in Hawaii. A soft yellow glow lit the waxy face of Marcos, and a row of World War II medals was pinned to his chest.

Soft choral music played in the all-black mausoleum and an eternal flame burned at Marcos's feet, a symbol of the status the Marcos family believes is his due. Marcos's widow, Imelda, walked barefoot behind the black

and gold coffin as it was carried by retired generals into the mausoleum built beside the family mansion in Batac, 100 kilometres north of Manila.

Crowds pressed around the coffin and reached out to touch it as it passed by. Returning to the mausoleum later, Imelda accompanied: "He seems different for all of us."

"I wanted him preserved so that you can see him again," she said to a crowd of people waiting to view the body.

"Ferdinand is now with me more than before. Before he was a dream. Now he is real and more," she told Reuters.

The funeral climaxed the president's return to his stronghold in the northern Philippines after his body was flown from Hawaii Tuesday.

President Fidel Ramos, a former Marcos police chief who helped oust him in the 1986 revolution, said he would not be there for the next day's funeral.

He also refused a Manila bid for the funeral eulogies by Marcos's son, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, and Senator Arturo Toba, a close political ally of the former president, angrily defended his achievements.

Philippine opponents, the United States and the Western media were all dug out for blacklisting the name of Marcos, who ruled the nation for 20 years, most of it under martial law.

His 35-year-old son, now a congressman for the same Batangas seat his father once held, eulogized him as a great man "whose lifetime was spent for his country and his people."

Both Marcos's and Mr. Tolentino accused the United States of turning on Marcos after he won concessions from Washington over U.S. military bases in the Philippines and betrayed him

during the 1986 "people power" revolution.

"In the guise of friendship, he was abducted from his beloved country as the snarling dogs fought over the spoils as they might scraps of fatted food," Mr. Marcos told the crowd.

U.S. helicopters lifted Marcos and his family from the presidential palace as his rule collapsed in the face of a mass revolt following rigged elections in 1986.

He thought he was being flown to his northern stronghold to regroup his forces, but American soldiers disarmed the family and entourage and forced them instead into exile in Hawaii.

Marcos never returned to the Philippines alive, but the rest of the family was allowed back from exile in 1991.

Imelda Marcos, who ran for president last year and came fifth, faces more than 100 criminal and civil charges from her role. Judgement is due in the first case later this month.

French tourists end up in wrong country

LONDON (R) — Three French tourists who stopped for directions knew they were slightly lost but were shocked when told they were in the wrong country. They were in Portsmouth, Hampshire, in England. They thought that after an eight-hour trip from France they had arrived in the United States. A helpful policeman realised their mistake when he checked their hotel brochure. "I didn't know if they were going to laugh or cry when, in broken English, they asked 'are we in the wrong country?'" "Fortunately ... they saw the funny side of it," he said.

Cambodia bans right-hand drive car imports

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodia's government has banned the import of right-hand drive cars, a Ministry of Commerce statement released Friday said. The ban became effective on Sept. 8. But people who had obtained import licenses before that date could still bring their cars into the country, the statement said. Cambodia was once a French protectorate and it maintained the French system of driving on the left-hand side of the road after the country proclaimed independence in 1953. Neighbouring Thailand drives on the left-hand side of the road and many of the cars here are either imported from Thailand, or stolen there and smuggled into Cambodia to be sold.

Waitress who befriended customer gets \$500,000 estate

CLEVELAND (AP) — An 18-year-old waitress who befriended an elderly restaurant patron will get most of his \$500,000 estate under settlement of a lawsuit challenging his will. William Cruxton, 82, ate lunch and dinner at Dink's Colonial Restaurant virtually every day from the time of his wife's death in 1989 to his own on Nov. 9. He left most of his estate to waitress Cara Michelle Wood. She helped Cruxton around the house and helped handle his bills. When Mr. Cruxton was hospitalized last year, he kept a photo of her by his bed. In his will, Mr. Cruxton left his sister, Cora Bruck, enough money to cover burial expenses. The rest went to Ms. Wood. Ms. Bruck sued to probate court and four other people who believed they had a stake in his estate joined the lawsuit. Kent B. Schneider, who represents Ms. Wood, wouldn't specify an amount of the out-of-court settlement reached Tuesday. But he said the amount to be split among the five plaintiffs was less than 10 per cent of the estate's value.

Indonesia blocks sex hot-lines from Hong Kong

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia has blocked access to sex hot-lines from Hong Kong after parliamentarians said such telephone calls could damage morals in the mainly Muslim country, the state telecommunications company said Friday. "We have blocked the sex lines from Hong Kong since Thursday," said a spokesman for state-owned PT Indosat, which handles international lines. The spokesman said some parliamentarians had called for the control, adding that under international law any country had the right to block lines deemed harmful to it. "Sex telephones are a form of cultural infiltration. They could ruin national morals," Mohammad Muz of the ruling Golkar Party was quoted as saying by the official Antara News Agency. The Indosat spokesman said he believed Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country, did not have any domestic sex lines, although there was no official ban.

Swiss chocolate cruel to cows

PARIS (AFP) — A French official has threatened to ban Swiss chocolate, claiming the Swiss mistreat their cows' udders, if Bern goes through with a ban on French foie gras (fatted duck liver), produced by allegedly cruel force-feeding. Henri Emmanuelli, chairman of the regional council in the Landes Department in south-western France, and former treasurer of the Socialist Party, said the same pressure (of action) was applied to Swiss udders by electric milking machines as was inflicted on French ducks' gizzards by electric force-feeders. Mr. Emmanuelli pledged to introduce a bill in parliament banning Swiss chocolate in response to a Swiss lower house vote on June 17 that urged the federal government to ban fat liver imports. French force-feeding methods would be illegal in Switzerland.

Tapie pulls out of confrontation

PARIS (AFP) — Olympique Marseille owner Bernard Tapie pulled out of his confrontation with international football chiefs Friday in order, he said, to save French football from a world-wide ban.

Tapie dropped his lawsuit against the European Football Union (UEFA) to enable the French to escape the wrath of international football federation (FIFA) President Joao Havelange of Brazil.

Havelange had threatened to ban the French national team and all French clubs from international competition if Tapie continued to defy the game's governing body.

The French soccer champions had won a stay of execution of UEFA's European Cup ban Thursday which threw the competition into turmoil.

"French football was in danger of disappearing from the international scene," Tapie said from Marseille.

"Only by abandoning our lawsuit could French football be saved. I hope our fans, our players and our officials will be recognised for putting France's interests above their own individual interests," he added.

"I am profoundly sad and shocked at having to give way



Marseille President



FIFA President

to a procedure whose parameters I cannot master and I am unhappy we cannot defend

a title we were so proud of. But it's the price to pay and I accept to pay in the higher interests of French football," he went on.

Monaco will now replace them in their Champions' Cup match against AEK Athens next Wednesday and Auxerre will take Monaco's place in a UEFA Cup match against Spanish side Tenerife.

Havelange and UEFA President Lennart Johansson of Sweden and their general secretaries, Joseph Blatter (FIFA) and Gerhard Aigner (UEFA), had called in French federation president Jean Fournet-Fayard for a crisis summit at Zurich.

Fournet-Fayard, who was still trying to talk Tapie out of the confrontation at two o'clock this morning, said from Zurich: "Common sense has finally prevailed."

Marseille were banned by UEFA Monday following allegations the Marseille general manager and a player had bribed three players in another French club.

Marseille beat Valenciennes 1-0 in the match in question six days before their European Cup final triumph over AC Milan of Italy to win the French League.

Short gains respect with draw

LONDON (R) — British challenger Nigel Short drew the second game of his world title chess challenge Thursday, convincing experts that he can truly threaten reigning champion Garry Kasparov.

Short, 28, fulfilled predictions of an aggressive assault and clearly wanted revenge for his unnecessary loss on time in the first game of the match.

But the champion salvaged a draw after 51 moves of arduous defence to maintain his one-point lead. Slightly perplexed grandmasters in London's Savoy Theatre were left trying to pinpoint where, if anywhere, Short missed a win.

Kasparov, 30, who needs a 12-12 deadlock to retain his title, now leads the 24-game series 1½ to ½. The third game, with Kasparov having the advantage of the white pieces, will be played Saturday.

In Zwolle, Netherlands, Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman and Russian former world champion Anatoly Karpov agreed to a draw after 49 moves in the third game of the FIDE World Chess Championship Thursday.

U.S. Open

Pioline, Masur reach semifinals

NEW YORK (AFP) — Frenchman Cedric Pioline, who has never won a tournament in his career, added eighth seed Andrei Medvedev to his list of victims Thursday to reach the semi-finals of the U.S. Open tennis championships.

Pioline, the 15th seed who ousted world number one Jim Courier in the fourth round, showed the same accuracy from the baseline and aggression at the net to beat Medvedev 6-3, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

However, Pioline was not as consistent as in the Courier match, and admitted Medvedev's mistakes helped him.

"It's true he was off at the beginning," Pioline said. "At the beginning (we) both were nervous and there were no winner points. Just unforced errors. But I got in (the match) before him."

"The Ukrainian never looked at ease, and said he could not figure out how to deal with Pioline's game."

"The likes guys who don't play with lots of spin, and I don't. That makes it easy for him," Medvedev said.

"He can play everything. He has a good serve, good strokes, good from the baseline as well as volley."

In the second set Medvedev's big serve let him down. He was broken in the third to trail 1-2, double faulted twice as he dropped his serve in the fifth game, and double faulted again on set point in the seventh.

In the third the momentum swung. Pioline made seven unforced errors in the third game to drop his serve and then he too double faulted to give away the set.

Medvedev said the turning point came in the fourth game of the final set.

He had Pioline at 0-30 but failed to keep up the pressure. Then he dropped his own serve in the next game.

"I felt that I had a chance to stay in the match. But at 2-1, when I couldn't break him, and then I lost my serve, it was the point when I broke myself. I just broke myself. I never could get back in."

Pioline said that despite his



France's Cedric Pioline is ecstatic after securing another win to advance at the U.S. Open (AFP photo)

gave up the match with a double fault on match point.

Larsson said he was never close to repeating the form that upset Boris Becker in the fourth round.

"I did not get any rhythm on my serve, and also Wally, he served very smart today," Larsson said. "He mixed it up, slow and hard, so I mean, I wasn't close to breaking him."

The other semi-final pits second-seeded Pete Sampras, the highest seed left in the tournament, against number 14 Alexander Volkov of Russia.

Both of the men's semis are scheduled for Saturday. The women dominate the action Friday.

In their semi-finals, world number one Steffi Graf meets Manuela Maleeva Fragniere and second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario plays Czech 12th seed Helena Sukova.

One title was decided Thursday, as Sukova and Australian Todd Woodbridge defeated Martina Navratilova and Mark Woodforde in the mixed doubles final.

That match was interrupted twice by rain before Sukova and Woodbridge won 6-3, 7-6 (8/6).

She made twice this week Sukova has triumphed over Navratilova. She beat the third seed in the fourth round of the women's singles.

U.S. OPEN NOTEBOOK

For the first time in the history of the U.S. national tennis championships, the eight men's and women's semi-finalists are from eight different countries.

The women's side boasts Steffi Graf (Germany), Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain), Helena Sukova (Czech Republic) and Manuela Maleeva Fragniere (Switzerland).

For the men it is Wally Masur (Australia), Alexander Volkov (Russia), Cedric Pioline (France) and Pete Sampras (United States).

Aussies stick together: Australian players on the men's tennis tour are a close-knit bunch, according to veteran Wally Masur.

GOREN BRIDGE

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NEUTRALIZE THE THREAT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

4 3

10 6 5 4

Q J 10 5

A K 4

WEST

Q J 10 9 8

6 5 2

8 7

Q 9 3 2

K 5 7

J 3 2

10 9 8 7

SOUTH

A K 7

Q J 5

Q 9 3 2

A 6 5

Q 6 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 0 Pass 1 7 Pass

2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

The holding: ♠ A K 7

♠ Q J 5

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Armiger may silence Leger Classic critics

DONCASTER (R) — Armiger can silence the critics by running out an impressive winner of Saturday's St. Leger, the final classic of the English horse racing season.

The Leger has come in for occasional brickbats over the past few years with claims its standard has steadily fallen as longer distance races become less fashionable.

A quality performance from Henry Cecil's colt — or any other runner — would go a long way towards salvaging the staling reputation of the 14½ furlong (2.9-km) event.

Of the expected 10 runners, Armiger, the 100-30 second favourite, is certainly well placed to impress.

The colt is already a group one winner and was among the favourites for the Derby until injury forced him out of the Epsom showpiece.

Cecil's colt's success at the highest level came on the Doncaster Course in last season's racing post trophy.

The son of Rainbow Quest was always up with the leaders that day, clearly enjoying himself on the easy ground and eventually racing three-and-a-half lengths clear.

With similar underfoot conditions guaranteed for Saturday, Armiger, who has been working particularly well at home, can put two recent defeats behind him and land another classic for owner Khalid Abdullah and jockey Pat Eddery.

In Dublin, triple group one winner Opera House adds a real touch of class to Saturday's Irish champion stakes which should prove an easy stepping stone to next month's Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe.

With the going at Dublin's Leopardstown Track officially reported as good, trainer Michael Stoute decided to let the five-year-old take his chance in Ireland.

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Maradona signs with Argentine club

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Diego Maradona has signed with Argentine first division Newell's Old Boys, his agent Marcos Franchi said Thursday.

The 32-year-old former Argentina captain had been courted by several first division teams, including San Lorenzo and his first club Argentinos Juniors, since he walked out on Spain's Sevilla in June.

But Newell's Old Boys, from Rosario 300 km north of Buenos Aires, offered Maradona the best overall package, including pay and playing conditions. The amounts were not disclosed.

Newell's finished bottom of the Clausura first division championship in June.

Maradona's second comeback could prompt Argentina coach Alfio Basile to call him up for crucial World Cup playoffs against Australia next month and in November.

The player and coach seem to have patched up their differences after a row brought on by Basile's failure to summon Maradona for the South American qualifiers in which the twice world champions narrowly escaped a shock elimination last weekend.

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	CONCORD	CONCORD 1 MY GIRL CONCORD 2 LAST ACTION HERO	PLAZA	Adel Imam in Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal play (Arabic)	PHILADELPHIA	Robert Redford Demi Moore — in INDECENT PROPOSAL	Nabli Al Mashini Theatre	presents a play entitled: Al ilm Nuron	AHLAN THEATRE
		SHOWS: 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30		A special show for children at 11 a.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays Problem Child 2 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalal, Hassan Al Shaer, Foad Shomali. In addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day	Returns to you Thursday Aug. 26 in the play: Arab Summit Conference

Yemen endorses self-rule accord as independent Palestinian decision

Bassindawh laments disarray in Arab ranks, urges collective stand on 'new world order'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Yemen Friday extended support for the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreement but declined to assess the merits or shortcomings of the accord, saying it represented an independent Palestinian decision and the Palestinians have to evaluate it for themselves.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Bassindawh also lamented the disarray in Arab ranks following the Gulf crisis triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and said his country supported Jordan's calls for an Arab summit to settle Arab differences.

Mr. Bassindawh, addressing a press conference at the conclusion of a three-day visit to Jordan, said however that there was little response to the call from other members of the Arab League.

The minister said his country's endorsement of the Israeli-Palestinian accord was in line with its 1974 recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"We are not eligible to evaluate the (Israeli-PLO) deal," he said. "It is up to our Palestinian brethren and their sole legitimate representative to decide what is best for themselves."

Expressing hope that the agreement would lead to a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace settlement, the minister, however, cautioned against inter-Palestinian fighting over the issue.

"We hope our Palestinian brothers would not forget that their real enemy (Israel) is very much there and would not turn their guns against each other," said Mr. Bassindawh. "It will be a catastrophe, a disaster."

In reply to a question, he said Yemen had not formulated any position vis-a-vis the possibility of relations with Israel in a post-peace era. "First and foremost, Yemen is not a party directly involved in the conflict," he said. However, he said, Yemen will not adopt any decision which may run contrary to Palestinian in-



Mohammad Salem Bassindawh

terests. The Yemeni minister, who was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Thursday, said that his visit to Jordan was aimed at a general exchange of views and following up "on the latest developments" in the Middle East peace process.

Describing Jordanian-Yemeni relations and cooperation as excellent, he said one of the goals of the visit was also to set a date for a meeting "as soon as possible" of the Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee to discuss bilateral ties and cooperation.

He said Yemen, which was ostracised by the Gulf states over what they saw as its support for Iraq in the Gulf crisis, was continuing its efforts for reconciliation but that Sanaa would not sacrifice its principles in the bargain.

Yemen has frozen its efforts to mend fences with Kuwait "for no fault of its own," but will renew the endeavours "when the time is opportune," he added.

He did not comment on the status of relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, which expelled close to one million Yemeni expatriates as a punishment for their country's sympathies for Iraq. But reports have indicated that Saudi-Yemeni ties are on the mend.

Mr. Bassindawh, who left Amman shortly after the press conference, called for a collective Arab stand towards the "new world order," which, he

said, was posing grave challenges to the Arabs.

"It is ironic that the Arabs could reach agreements with a common enemy (Israel) while they could not agree to settle differences among themselves and face a common challenge," he said.

In a general review of the Arab situation and the "new world order," Mr. Bassindawh appeared to offer an insight to not only the Yemeni thinking but also a general perception of the Arab World vis-a-vis the Israel-PLO accord.

"Since 1967, we have been demanding the return of all occupied territories including Jerusalem," he said. "We rejected the (1978) agreement (worked out by the late Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat and we called him a traitor. But now it appears that the (Sadat) deal was much better than what we are prepared to accept today."

The continuing international sanctions against Iraq and the crises with the West involving Libya as well as Sudan are all part of the "new world order," he said, emphasising the need for an in-depth assessment of the Arab situation through an Arab summit.

However, he said, convening an Arab summit in itself would not be the answer. There have always been "Arab-Arab problems and I doubt whether they could be resolved in one or two days of meetings" in a summit.

Mr. Bassindawh said Yemen was striving hard to recover from the severe economic blow it suffered from the Gulf crisis.

He said the government has not been able to "fully meet" the requirements of the one million Yemenis who were forced to return home in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

"We are doing what we can" to address the problems, he said. The returnees, he added, "are trying to adapt to their new life and we are trying to create opportunities of work for them."

He said the country's oil production was limited to 400,000 barrels per day, "which is very little compared to the (needs of) 14 to 15 million people."

'Jordan-Israel agenda is no treaty'

Jordan Information Bureau
Washington

IN HIS FIRST briefing for the 11th round of bilateral Middle East peace talks, Jordanian spokesperson Dr. Marwan Muasher said that Jordan would be in a position to move on, and probably announce, the agenda of the Jordanian-Israeli track if and once the Palestinian-Israeli accord is signed. He indicated however that the announcement of the agreement on the agenda would not be done simultaneously with the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli accord.

"There will be no simultaneous announcements of the agenda and the Palestinian-Israeli accord, as our agenda, one, is not finalised and, two, as we await the signature on the Palestinian track," Dr. Muasher said. "We are not sure when the agenda will be announced. This, of course, depends on when we can finalise it. There are still language differences to be agreed on," he added. He later indicated in response to a question that the modifications are "not directly" related to the Israeli-PLO agreement.

Dr. Muasher emphasised that his reference is not to a peace treaty but to an agenda that lists issues to be discussed in the Israeli-Jordanian track. "Contrary to press reports that we have been seeing all along, but particularly lately, this is not a framework for a peace treaty and it is not a peace treaty or a peace agreement. It is a list of the issues to be discussed, and as such it's a starting point that would allow us to discuss between us and Israel. It does not in any way constitute anything close to a peace treaty or a peace agreement," he explained.

He reiterated Jordan's position on the issue of a separate peace with Israel. "We are not going to sign a separate peace treaty with Israel. We will only come to an agreement with Israel in the context of a comprehensive peace with all the Arab parties, and under no conditions are we going to enter into a separate peace treaty with Israel," he stressed.

Asked whether Jordan will be

present in the ceremony signing the Israeli-Palestinian accord expected to take place on Monday, Dr. Muasher said that so far Jordan has not been formally invited to the ceremony, and indicated that a decision on that issue will be made by the Jordanian government.

Asked whether the announcement of agreement on the agenda can "simplify" the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, Dr. Muasher said: "I hope that progress on any track would be helpful to progress on other tracks. Of course, the Palestinians have already done or gone beyond what we have done in our negotiations with the Israelis, particularly with the signing to the Declaration of Principles."

Asked about the Jordanian position vis-a-vis the future of Palestinian control of movement of people and goods through the bridges over the Jordan River, the Jordanian spokesman said the issue is not well defined in the agreement, and added that the details still need to be worked out. "Jordan has not changed its bridge crossing policies. That will all depend upon the details that will be worked out... This is still a declaration of principles. There are monumental details that have to be worked out, some of which will involve Jordan. And until we are able to look at such details, it is difficult to tell what our policy will be with regard to bridge crossing," he said.

Dr. Muasher was asked whether Jordan will consider to separate the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation after the signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the PLO takes place. The spokesman reminded reporters that Jordan provided the umbrella which made Palestinian participation in the peace process possible because Israel had previously refused to talk to the PLO. "If Israel does indeed, as we expect, recognise the PLO, then obviously with that reason being removed, we will look again at the joint delegation formula... It is difficult at this stage, again, to predict what will happen, but there will be a serious reevaluation of the nature of the joint

Jordanian (-Palestinian) delegation if and when Israel recognises the PLO," he said.

Dr. Muasher denied that such a reevaluation would be based on "a sense of anger" because the Palestinians have gone ahead with an agreement with Israel. "I just said that all options will be open, that coordination with our Palestinian partners will occur before any decision is taken," he stated.

Dr. Muasher said the working groups on the Jordanian-Israeli track remain "provisional" in nature because the agenda has not been finalised. He indicated that in discussions of those groups, there has not been much progress beyond the opening positions of each of the parties and the exploration of ideas on both sides. He added that contrary to what reports in the U.S. press have stated, no projects have been agreed to by the two sides. Some of the working groups are still working on sub-agendas for their group meetings, he noted. Should there be a formal announcement of the agenda, the provisional working groups would become formal working groups, he said. "I would expect progress to happen at a hopefully faster pace than has been the case so far," he said.

Dr. Muasher said Jordanian-PLO coordination will be "much stronger" from now on because of the details that will have to be worked out in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration on Principles where Jordan is involved.

Asked about reports that Jordan was upset because Amman was not consulted on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Dr. Muasher said: "At the beginning... we were worried that the agreement has parts in it which Jordan was given a role without its prior coordination or without consultation... As we looked thoroughly at the agreement, we saw that this was an invitation for Jordan to come in and assume a role that will be coordinated with the other parties and not a role that is preset without Jordan's consultation, and as such we do not feel that the agreement presents the concerns and worries that we had at the beginning."

Remaining expellees appeal to Red Cross

MARI AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon
(AP) — Palestinian expellees in South Lebanon appealed Friday to a visiting Red Cross team to urge Israel to speed their repatriation.

The 217 men remaining in the hillside camp were among the 417 men deported by Israel in December 1992. More than 180 others were taken back Thursday, with the rest to follow by year's end.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Gaza physician who serves as spokesman for the group, said the Red Cross delegates agreed to raise the issue of faster repatriation with Israel.

"The Red Cross will debate an early return of the remaining deportees so they would be repatriated before the rains come," Dr. Rantisi said. He said the expellees' tents "could not endure another attack of rain and snow storms."

The exiles were expelled in the midst of a severe winter in which heavy rains and snow often washed away tents and turned mud lanes in the camp to small rivers.

The four-member Red Cross team that visited Friday examined 50 men but determined that none needed urgent hospitalisation, as some camp leaders have contended.

They said they would report their findings to the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The timing of the repatriation was seen as a gesture by Israel in support of its decision to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Friday's visit by the Red Cross appeared to be yet another goodwill gesture.

The last time Red Cross representatives were allowed by Israel to visit the camp was Jan. 23, when they were flown in from Cyprus to evacuate four ailing exiles and 13 others Israel said were expelled in "error."

U.N. says it tried to avoid heavy Somali casualties

MOGADISHU (R) — The U.N. defended itself from accusations Friday that cannon-firing helicopters killed 100 Somalis, including women and children. It said it tried to keep casualties down but saw anyone in an attack as a fighter.

"In an ambush there are no sidelines for spectators," U.S. military spokesman Major David Stockwell told a news briefing on Thursday's incident, in which one U.N. soldier was killed and five others were wounded.

Bandits shot dead two Somalis working for the U.S. Cable News Network (CNN) and wounded two others in an attempted car-

jack on Friday as tension boiled in the streets a day after the battle.

Gunmen lurking in nearby bombed-out buildings fired at two U.S. helicopters that hovered over the stricken car which had been sent to investigate reports of a militia mortar attack against the U.N.-controlled airport, wounded survivors said.

U.N. officials said they had no confirmation of Somali claims that 100 civilians were killed on Thursday when U.N. helicopters went to the rescue of an ambushed patrol.

"It is regrettable if women and children were killed. But all the

people involved on the ground, or in any way participated in the action, had in mind to kill the U.N. soldiers and were considered combatants," said U.S. Quick Reaction Force (QRF) Commander Colonel Mike Dallas.

"My job is to protect the U.N. forces, and we did."

There was no independent way of verifying the Somali casualty claims which would be the worst civil death toll in three months of increasingly ugly guerrilla warfare.

The attack alarmed some members of the U.S. Senate, which urged President Bill Clinton in a

90-7 vote on Thursday to set clear goals and get Congress's approval by Nov. 15 for keeping American troops in Somalia.

Some senators said the gunship attack showed it was time for U.S. troops to leave the country they went to save from famine.

But France backed the U.S. over Thursday's attack, accusing militias of deliberately using civilians as a "human shield."

Militias loyal to fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aided have clamped a stranglehold on U.N. operations in south Mogadishu.

On Sunday, a mob trapped and killed seven Nigerian troops,

Regent: Time for contemplation

(Continued from page 1)

"How can Arafat recognise the existence of a state that has not defined its own borders?" asked Mr. Masarweh.

Furthermore, Mr. Masarweh added, while "it is still too early to speak about anything," it is necessary to point out that mutual recognition was not mutually agreed.

"What you have is a political party, PLO-Arafat wing, recognising a state, and a state recognising a party. This is not a cognition of two parties on an equal footing."

While some Jordanians refused comment saying the issue was a Palestinian matter and Jordanians had no right to comment, 300 in downtown Amman said they were disturbed by the

"equality of the recognition."

Writer Mu'ness Razzaz, head of the Jordan Arab Democratic Party, found the step "inevitable, but not satisfactory."

"As an Arab nationalist I cannot accept this unequal equation," said Mr. Razzaz. "It is an unjust solution that is being shaped by the powerful."

"This solution will ensure the continuity of the conflict which may not necessarily be military in nature."

"The children may continue to throw stones and burn tires, you cannot sign away their right to rebel against the oppressor. It is a God-given right," he said of the intifada.

"I realise that the PLO may not be offered anything better than this but this will not lead to a lasting solution. It will lead to new forms of conflict."

Recognition deal lopsided

(Continued from page 1)

Recognition "infringed on the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

Two major opposition groups, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), have announced the signing of their representatives from the PLO Executive Committee, bringing the number of those who resigned from the top PLO decision-making body to four in protest against Arafat's handling of the peace process.

Shafiq Al Hout, who had spent his membership in a committee two weeks ago, announced his resignation on the organisation together. Mr. Hout's drastic move reflects growing disillusionment in the PLO institutions and underscores that the rejection of the accord with Israel is no longer confined to the "rejectionists" or "the position."

Mr. Hout and leading Palestinian poet Mahmoud

Darwish, who also resigned last month, were staunch supporters of the PLO talks with Israel but were angered by the terms that the PLO accepted in the limited autonomy accord.

Supporters of the accord played down the opposition within the PLO and even among Palestinian diaspora as they consider as a crucial factor the manifestations of the support inside the occupied territories by the people, who are under the direct mercy of the Israeli occupation.

Reports from the occupied territories indicate that the news has raised hopes for Palestinians that the end of the occupation is near. Consequently, an immediate challenge for the PLO leaders who support the recent accords and describe them as "a historic step forward," is to reveal to the Palestinians, especially those in the occupied territories, the full implications of the two accords in order to maintain this crucial support in the more difficult periods to come.

Analysts and critics of Mr. Arafat maintain.

Lebanon rejects Israeli document

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon Friday rejected a proposed Israeli statement of principles, saying that it ignored demands for an Israeli troop withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Fares Bouez said the latest proposal made by Israel at the 11th round of bilateral peace talks underway in Washington "continues to ignore Lebanon's position and demands to recover its territory."

"Therefore (the proposal) is unacceptable in its present form and calls for clarifications and further negotiations," Mr. Bouez told reporters in Beirut.

According to the document made available Thursday in Washington, Israel and Lebanon would agree to "remain committed to the peace process begun at the Madrid conference of October 1991."

Both countries would acknowledge their respective "rights to sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence within their recognised borders."

In the third paragraph of the draft statement of principles, "the parties recognise the need to reach security arrangements to ensure a peaceful border."

The proposal also mentions the need to disarm all "terrorists" and elements hostile to the peace process, and for the Israeli and Lebanese armies to be deployed only inside their own territories.

Chief Lebanese delegate Suheil Shammass said Thursday he received a copy of the draft statement of principles from his Israeli counterpart Uri Lubrani.

Mr. Shammass reaffirmed his long-standing demand that a "joint military committee be given the key aim of programming an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, in accordance with U.N. (Security Council) Resolution 425."

Muta plot trial opens at security court

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — The trial of 10 suspects accused of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein opened at the State Security Court in Marka Thursday amid tight security.

The court clerk read out the detailed charges against the 10, two of whom are tried in absentia, to a crowded courtroom. Dressed in khaki prison uniforms and slippers, the eight defendants heard the prosecution's three charges against them.

The first charge is plotting to assassinate the King at Muta University during a graduation ceremony on June 26 and to replace the regime with an Islamic caliphate state.

The suspects, five of whom were students at the military university 130 kilometres south of Amman, were also accused of trying to "change the Constitution of the state through illegal and violent means," and belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami).

After the charges were read out, defence lawyers refused to allow their clients to enter any plea. They cited two reasons for this objection: That the arrests and conditions of their detention since last April were illegal and that the State Security Court was not the authorised court to try such a case.

Speaking on behalf of the nine-man defence team seated facing the panel of judges, attorney Saleh Armouti accused the General Intelligence Department (GID), which he said was not authorised to conduct the interrogations, of "physically and psychologically torturing" the suspects while they were held at the department prison cells for three months before they were transferred to Zarqa military pris-

on. Around 30 men were arrested last April and held at the GID in the same case, but most of them were released in August.

Colonel Haffiz Amin, the judge presiding the three-man military panel, asked the defence team to submit written objections, and adjourned the court until Wednesday.

Col. Amin also approved the defence's request to appoint a doctor and psychiatrist to conduct medical check ups on the defendants to report on any signs of torture.

Addressing the court, Mr. Armouti — who was also a defence lawyer in the "Prophet Mohammad's Army" case in 1991 — described the charges as "null and void."

"The torture these boys underwent at the Intelligence Department had not been witnessed in this country since its establishment," he asserted. He named a GID officer who had allegedly supervised the alleged torture, but in line with the Press and Publications Law, the Jordan Times cannot publish certain names in an ongoing security trial.

The suspects were brought to the courthouse in a closed white van belonging to the military police.

The suspects' handcuffs were removed in court upon the defence lawyers' insistence before the court opened the session.

Col. Amin warned the public, most of whom were the suspects' relatives and members of the press, against any outbursts during the hearings.

The judge also warned journalists to abide by articles 42 of the Press and Publication Law prohibiting the publication of the minutes of the court proceedings.

But he later told journalists they could cover the trial without the full details of everything re-

corded in court, and requested that the press remain objective and refrain from naming the defendants and witnesses "to avoid any possible tribal clashes," but the names of the defendants had already been published in the local press.

Mr. Armouti, on the other hand, accused prosecutor Major Mohammad Hijazi of leaking the charge sheet to the press, and requested that the court order the prosecution not to leak any information that would "affect public opinion." Maj. Hijazi denied he had leaked the charge sheet, saying he only answered a few questions to reporters.

In the indictment, two of the eight defendants in their thirties were accused of recruiting to the Tahrir Party five Muta University cadets and one member of the Royal Escort unit and "persuading" them that the Monarch was a "nonbeliever who should be killed."

The two alleged Tahrir Party members told the cadets that strategic institutions such as the radio and television station and the royal palaces would be occupied after the death of the King, according to the charge sheet.

However, the defendants were not accused of possession of illegal weapons or explosives, but the prosecution alleged that two of the defendants were to use pistols to kill King Hussein.

Last month, the King told Agence France Presse that he had proof that army cadets were involved in an Islamist plot to assassinate him.

"It had never occurred to me that certain youths will go astray in this way," the King said. "When the group was discovered, its members were put under surveillance, but when the circle widened certain measures against them had to be taken immediately."

Jordan's military is strictly banned from any political activity, and its members are prohibited from voting.

The Tahrir Party has denied any involvement in the plot, and two senior members of the party remain in detention, but are not being tried in this case.

Unlike the old State Security Court Law, the new law — passed by the last Parliament — allows the defence to appeal the verdict at the court of appeals.

After the court was adjourned, the public was asked to remain seated as the defendants' hands were tightly cuffed behind their backs. They were led one by one to the van and driven back to detention.

Outside the court building, international television cameras took pictures of the mothers and sisters of the defendants who cried and prayed to God to "save our boys from the hands of the persecutors." They insisted that their sons were being punished "just because they are devout Muslims."

"They beat my brother for 85 days and gave him pills which deprived him of sleep, they forced him to sign a confession," claimed Hamdud Askar, a sister of one of the accused.

"He signed after they threatened to sodomise him," she added.

The young dark woman spoke forcefully of her tribe's loyalty to the King and described the case as a "conspiracy to create animosity among the Jordanian tribes and King Hussein and the Hashemite family."

As Ms. Askar waved her hands in the air, saying that her brother could have easily killed the King if he had wanted to since he was frequently physically close to the Monarch, another woman shouted: "How could six boys occupy the radio and television station with a pistol?"



From Turkey with love

MOSCOW (R) — Tansu Ciller, the first woman prime minister of Turkey, ended her official visit to Moscow with a message of love for 150 million Russians. The Yale-educated economist said at a news conference at the end of her two-day visit: "I have a message for the Russian people — I first fell in love with the Russians from Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novels. Since then I've had a liking for them." "I'm so happy about all the warmth I've received here," she said. "She's just trying to woo the Russians," hissed a Turkish journalist from among the media audience. Mrs. Ciller — dubbed at home "Turkey's first prime minister without a moustache" — is a former professor of economics at Istanbul's Bosphorus University. She became prime minister in June.

Yeltsin to see Spanish surgeon for back pain

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has suffered back pain in recent days and invited a Spanish surgeon to Moscow for a consultation, a Kremlin aide said Thursday. Presidential spokesman Anatoly Kravtsov said the surgeon, who operated on Mr. Yeltsin's back in Barcelona three years ago, was flying into Moscow Thursday. He said the president had been experiencing discomfort but this was not preventing him from carrying out his duties. "He is fully capable of going about his business," Mr. Kravtsov said. A medical report, made public by the presidential press service, said Mr. Yeltsin was experiencing "pains in the lower back region, spreading into the leg. It noted that the president, 62, had undergone the 1990 operation in Spain for lumbosacral radiculitis — inflammation of the root of spinal nerve. He was injured on that occasion when an airline in which he was travelling hit turbulence and had to make an emergency landing. Mr. Yeltsin, whose left foot was temporarily paralysed, later said that had it not been for Spanish doctors he would have been crippled for life. On recent public appearances, the president has sometimes seemed to be walking stiffly. But he looked well and smiling in televised pictures of his meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller Thursday.

S. Korea rejects 2nd bid for Michael Jackson concert

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea has rejected for the second time a bid by singer Michael Jackson to perform, making it the only country to ban a performance by the U.S. pop superstar, officials said Friday. Jackson's first request to perform was rejected three weeks ago on the grounds his worldwide dangerous tour would reflect badly on the new civilian government's policies of austerity and frugality. The Ministry of Culture and Sports cited President Kim Young Sam's drive to rid society of corruptive influences and said a Jackson concert could have a potentially negative effect. "The answer is no," said an official of the Ministry of Culture and Sports Friday, declining to be identified in keeping with official practice. "Even if the application arrived again, we would make the same decision." In recent days, U.S. business and government leaders have written letters on Jackson's behalf, suggesting it could adversely affect U.S.-Korean relations, especially among African-American leaders. The U.S. embassy has said it regretted any decision to bar Jackson from performing. U.S. commercial counselors supported the application.

TV airs death threat against Menem

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — A television station broadcast a death threat against President Carlos Menem, reportedly left by an anonymous caller to its studios. The male voice on the answering machine recording, broadcast on Channel Nine's evening news programme, accused Mr. Menem of corruption and called him a traitor. The voice warned that Mr. Menem would be shot if he made a scheduled appearance Monday on a popular daytime television show, "Lunching with Mirha." It also threatened to kill the grandchildren of the talk show's hostess, Mirha Legrand, the caller did not claim allegiance to any political group.